

Consistent in terms of purpose and means, the expression of a generous and balanced temper, profoundly sympathetic to the world — in which he feels integrated naturally, in a sentimental communion providing him with affective and sensorial pleasure — the creative activity of Costache Agafiti (b. 1906, in Iasi), spanning over 30 years, is the outcome of an attitude translated in the piano of expression by harmony and sympathy; therefore, by aesthetic categories defining the classic ideal of art. This consciousness of this harmonious relationship concordant with the world is conveyed to us by his painting which is continuously unveiling the soothing certitude of reality.

From the selection of pictorial themes to its expression asserted by an artistic configuration — therefore all through the stages leading to the achievement of the work — the painter's major goal is to take possession of reality, fix it with pictorial means able to express its truth. This is the painter's only way of performing a both conscious and spontaneous act. Agafiti belongs to a category of painters from whom painting is justified by its own existence and real facts are sufficiently complex to be immortalized on canvas without previous studies or efforts of interpretation.

For him, painting is first of all an activity practicable with maximum pleasure. It is the effort of recomposing the milieu environment, as much as life is possible. His works are an outcome of his attachment to life and reality, the transcription by a skillful hand of what a keen eye observes, to the end of making visible the joy of living and integrating oneself, through senses, in such a vast world.

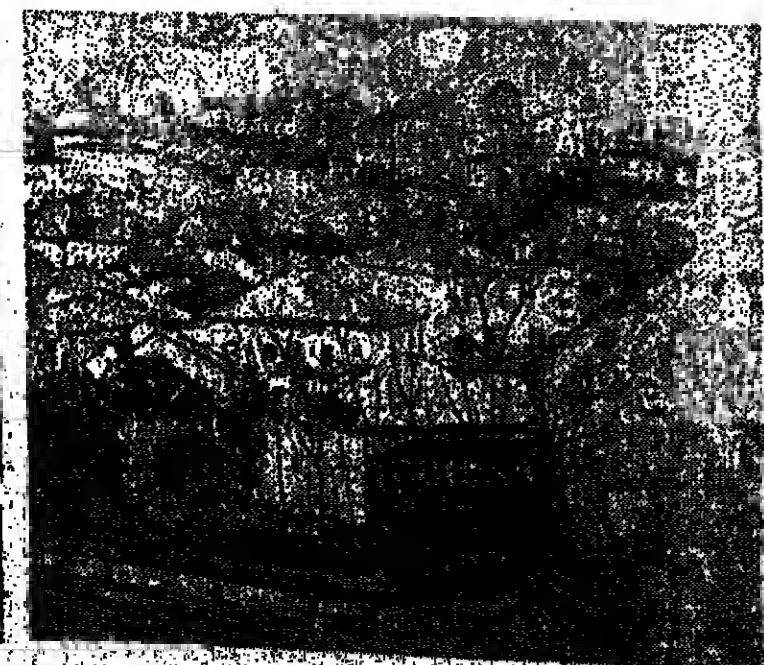
Agafiti's creation is a fervent accumulation of things perceived and loved. Landscapes, portraits, still-lives are painted with deep and natural pleasure, incessantly in order to enliven them in his conscience as well as in ours, in the instinctive and generally human effort of pulling them out from under the rule of the ephemeral, of fixing the joy of the revelation of things for himself and the others.

Agafiti's painting is not an exacting of the subject, of his ego, it is not the conceived call of that miraculous being who has become the artist of modern times; it deliberately assumes the role of conveying real, solid forms.

B. ADRIAN ■



Paintings by Costache Agafiti: "Last Landscape"; "Sun Life With Flowers and Blue Book"; "Self Portrait" (top); "Passant Woman with Flowers" (middle, left); "Winter in Golia District (below)"; "Old House in Iasi"; "Apples and Oranges" (middle right); "University District" (bottom, left).



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ROMANIAN NEWS



TERRITORIAL PLANNING PROGRAMMES NICOLAE CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO ILFOV AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND GIURGIU COUNTY

On Friday, July 1, during a working visit, RCP General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu, President of Romania, looked into the implementation of the programmes regarding the territorial development of Ilfov agricultural sector and of Giurgiu county, as well as of the plans regarding the development and modernization of several communes — Brogadiru, Cornetu, Mihăilesti, Bolotesti and Otopeni, which will become agroindustrial towns.



The working visit occasioned a simple analysis of the concrete solutions for the future development of the agroindustrial centres and the communes.

Referring to the agroindustrial centres, President Nicolae Ceausescu stressed that important industrial and farming units by branches specific to the respective area would function within them. These centres will also include learning, cultural and health units, facilities general and vocational schools, high schools having also the second stage will operate in these centres. Six-year education thus being ensured, the houses of culture will carry on their activity as long as Romanian centres of culture and creation.

Every agroindustrial urban centre will benefit from hospitals with 100 beds, from material and chemical shops as well as from other units meant for the public at large — public baths, bakery, market and a sports complex.

President Nicolae Ceausescu also underlined the importance that should be attached to the other communes for which physical planning projects are to be made according to the existing

development programmes, in these communes, industrial units are to develop (in most of them such units operate already), adding to which will be small industry developments and service units, just as cultural complexes. In the sphere of education, a general school with the first high-school stage will function in each commune, alongside

the other schools, ten-year education being thus ensured in accordance with the demands for socioeconomic growth of all localities.

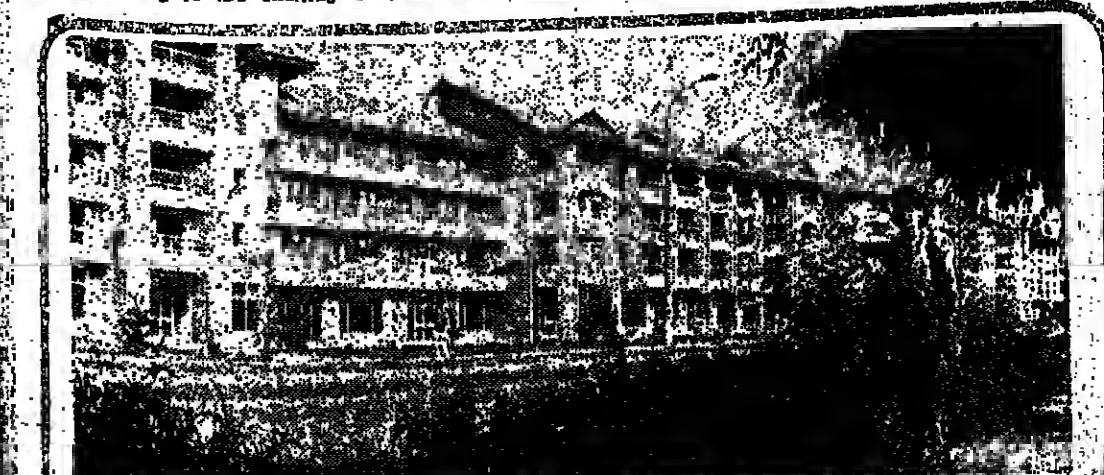
In each commune there will be dispensaries with about ten beds, other social units so as all necessary conditions may be provided this way and people's requirements may be met just

as in towns.

In connection with housing construction it was established that, once the number of flats built from the state fund was guaranteed so as to impart stability to the personnel in the respective localities, houses would be built according to physical planning norms by citizens, in cooperation, adequate

working and living conditions being thus provided for all the commune residents.

Addressing President Nicolae Ceausescu, numerous citizens underscored the correctness of the orientations set for the economic growth and development of public facilities in all communes for a greater welfare of the working people.



AN AGROINDUSTRIAL TOWN

As a result of the stepped-up urbanization drive, there are 237 towns in today's Romania. Over the last two decades, about three million dwellings have been built, providing housing to more than five-thirds of the population, or more accurately, to 88 per cent of the country's inhabitants.

Numerous agro-cultural establishments have also been raised, with the growth of their economic power, the communes have seen essential changes regarding housing and public facilities construction. On pages 6-7 we present an extensive response to town planning and modernization in Romania.

A NEW NATIONAL TREE GROWING ATLAS

- Modular-designed trees
- Fruit varieties promotion criteria
- Gene banks for all fruit-tree varieties
- Specialization of the major fruit farming regions
- Zoning and microzoning of varieties
- Capitalizing on sloping grounds
- Smaller areas, larger productions

(PAGES 6-7-8)

BLACK SEA OIL

PAGE 10

RECEPTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

GEORGES HABACHE,
Secretary-General of the Palestine Liberation People's Front

On Monday, July 4, President Nicolae Ceaușescu received Georges Habache, Secretary-General of the Palestine Liberation People's Front.

On the occasion, President Nicolae Ceaușescu reaffirmed Romania's stand on the settlement of the Middle East question, highlighting the need to stop up efforts for a just and durable settlement, through negotiations, in the region.

MIROSLAV ZAVADIL,

Chairman of the Central Council of the Czechoslovak Revolutionary Trade Union Movement

On Thursday, July 7, President Nicolae Ceaușescu received Miroslov Zavadi, Chairman of the Central Council of the Czechoslovak Revolutionary Trade Union Movement.

During the interview, light

exchanges, the situation in the region and the establishment of lasting peace on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination — to the creation of its own state included — and the assurance of the integrity of all states in the region.

was shed on the good ties of friendship and collaboration between Romania and Czechoslovakia, between the trade union bodies of the two countries included.

ROMANIA IN THE WORLD

ADVANCED FORMS OF COOPERATION

Romania attaches special importance to the expansion of its commercial and economic exchanges with all the world's states, irrespective of their social and political systems. The sequel in this respect is the high pace of its foreign trade, higher than that recorded by the industrial production and the national income. In the last two decades for instance, the total volume of the Romanian foreign trade has grown on an average by over 11 per cent, faster than the GNP and the national income, the dynamics of exports being substantially higher than that of imports.

Concomitantly with the promotion of the policy of opening foreign trade through the conventional flows of goods and services, Romania has also diversified the forms of its economic, industrial and technical cooperation with over 100 foreign partners. In fact, the contribution of joint ventures, the most diverse forms, stands for about one third of the country's currency revenues. Among the advanced forms of economic cooperation used by Romania in its foreign economic

exchanges, the joint production and marketing schemes hold an ever more important place. Working on the basis of conventions and contracts concluded by Romanian foreign trade bodies and economic enterprises with firms in such countries as Great Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Peru, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Sri Lanka, the Central African Republic, Mexico, the USA, Spain, etc., tens of joint production schemes marketing Romanian products in the respective countries or on third markets, joint banks, transport schemes, etc.

Also, in keeping with the Romanian law, starting in 1973 a number of Romania-based joint production and marketing schemes have been set up, including out among them are the Romanian-American society Romcontrol Dita, pursuing the production and marketing of peripheral data processing equipment; the Romanian-West German society Regita Renk, specializing in the production and marketing of the two countries and on third markets of reducers, toothed wheels and other machinery for the ship-

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RCP

Meeting on July 1, under the chairmanship of RCP General Secretary Nicolae Ceaușescu, the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP examined and approved a report on a draft decree regarding the assignment of the 1983 graduates of learning establishments — day classes — to work places to production.

This year, 27,385 graduates of higher learning institutes, 123,539 graduates of the second high school stage, as well as 172,815 graduates of vocational schools — the classes of 1983 — will be assigned to work places, subordinate to ministries, to the other central and local bodies.

It was stressed that, in assigning jobs to the graduates of higher learning institutes, high and vocational schools, account was taken of the need to meet the demand for graduates in all the branches of the national economy, with priority in mining, oil, energy and farming areas.

The Executive Political Committee considered the measures of assigning jobs to all graduates to be further proof of the

Romanian party and state's concern to guarantee proper work places to all those who graduated from an educational establishment, expressions of the superiority of the socialist system, brought out in bold relief by the realities in some countries of the world where most youths enlarge the ranks of the unemployed, having no prospect for a job.

The Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP analyzed measures for the generalization of 12-year education, deciding that in all the communes where the required number of pupils exists, the first stage of high school should also operate, alongside general schools, so that all children may complete their 12-year education in their own commune or in the nearest one, in the new agroindustrial town centres, depending on the number of pupils, several hundred schools offering second-stage high-school education will be created, in order to comprise all the pupils within the radius of the respective agroindustrial town centres. All these measures are meant to provide the

material base for the generalization of 12-year education. The Executive Political Committee passed the proposed and decided that they should be included in the programme for the organization and development of localities and for building agroindustrial town centres.

During the meeting, the Party General Secretary suggested that a Song to Romania National Cultural Centre should be built in Bucharest, consisting in modern halls for opera and concert performances, as well as for activities in the areas of technical, cultural and artistic creation, costumes and ovals occasioned by the Song to Romania National Festival.

It was suggested that, likewise, Song to Romania Cultural Centres should be built in a county level, while in communes the houses of culture should become Song to Romania centres of cultural and artistic activity and technical creation. At the same time, all workers' clubs and houses of culture will become Song to Romania centres of culture and creation.

ON THE DOWNING OF AN IRANIAN PASSENGER AIRCRAFT

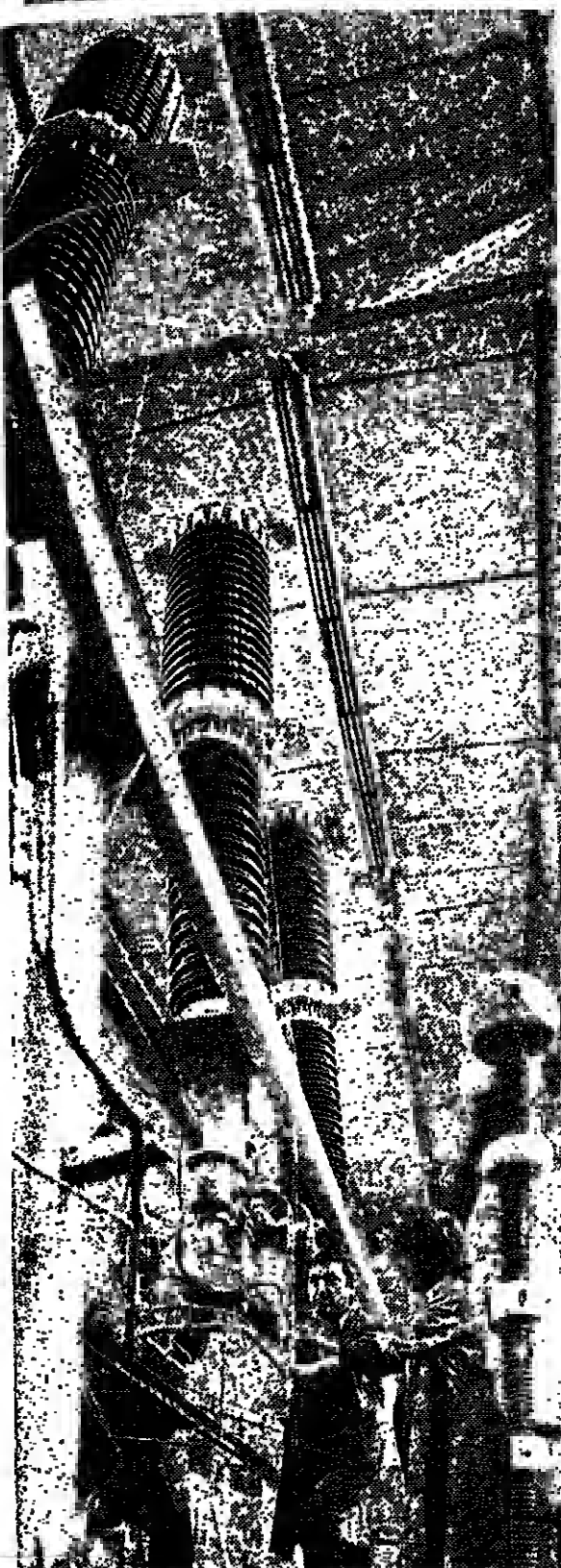
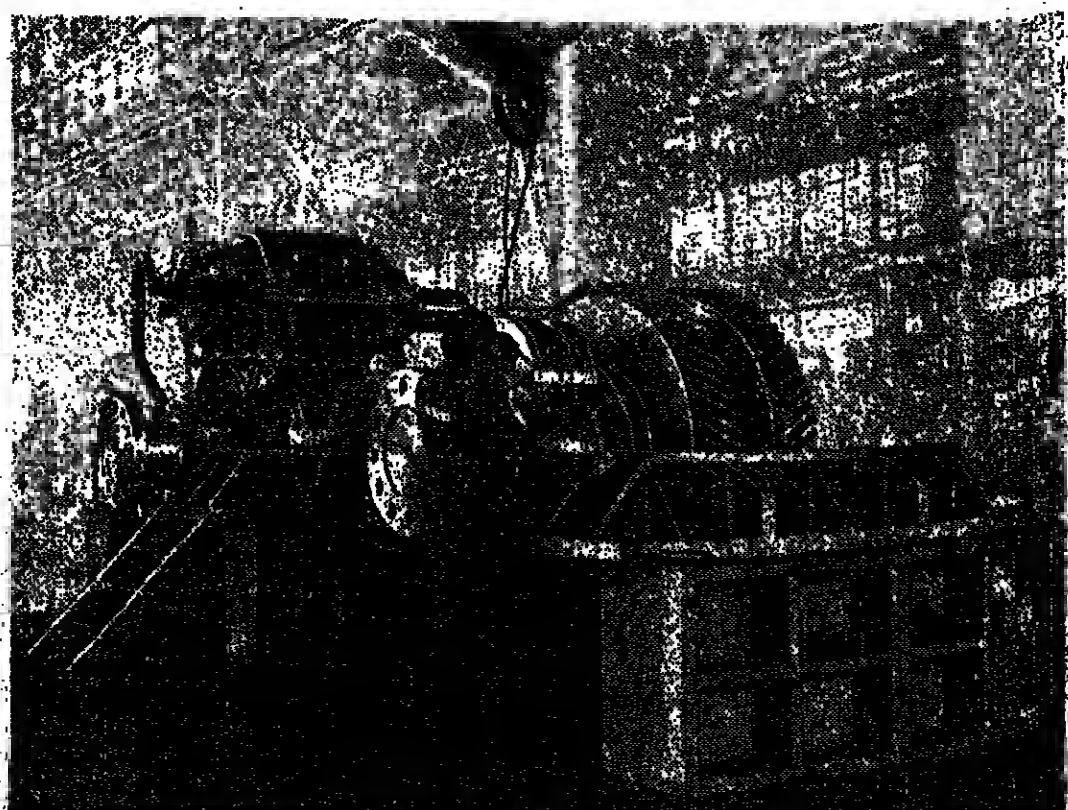
"AGERPRES" STATEMENT

The Romanian News Agency AGERPRES has been authorized to declare the following: In connection with the downing of an Iranian Airbus airliner belonging to Iran's civilian air transport company by the US naval task force in the Gulf, the public opinion in Romania expresses the deep regret for this extremely serious act which resulted in the death of all 290 persons aboard the aircraft.

The agency carried on so far by the joint societies, based both in Romania and abroad has fully attested to the viability of these forms of cooperation, their economic and financial results being very good. They have proved their usefulness and efficiency, largely contributing to the capitalization of the technological, economic, financial and managerial advantages generated by the collaboration between partners fully observing the terms agreed upon by them and the principles underlying interstate relations generally.

T. NITESCU

The joint production and marketing society Regita Renk, turns out products of high technical complexity. Photo: View from the assembly department



RIMS ARE READY FOR THE ROAD

A new batch of rims has been manufactured at the Dragănești enterprise (photo right). To its eight-year existence the enterprise has diversified the structure of its output, so that it supplies now the necessary rims and wheels for motor cars and utility vans for the Romanian market and for export. (Photo right)

FROM 150 HP TO 2,400 HP DIESEL HYDRAULIC ENGINES

23 August works of Bucharest — a leading unit of the Romanian mechanical engineering industry — is the sole producer of Diesel hydraulic engines in Romania. Currently built here are 15 models of Diesel hydraulic and electric engines of various powers (ranging between 150 and 2,400 HP) and gauges.

Besides meeting the domestic needs for such railway transport machines, the great Bucharest unit also exports its output for export to such countries as Bulgaria, India, Rumania, Switzerland, Hungary, the USA, Poland, etc.

Photo: The finishing touches are added in the 1,700-HP Diesel electric engine meant for the Hungarian railroads.



WATER-PROOF RECOVERY TECHNOLOGY

The Romanian experts of the Chemistry Institute in Cluj-Napoca have devised a new method of recovering vanadium from the used catalysts applied in oxidizing sulphur dioxide. The technology allows of obtaining vanadium pentoxide with a 90 per cent purity which is then used for obtaining new catalysts. As against the conventional methods — recovery through alkaline melting or extraction in acid medium — this technology is more economical, less polluting and safer.

Over the last six or seven years alone, more than 1,100

MODERN CARGO HANDLING TECHNOLOGY

The main Romanian seaport — Constanta — which accounts for almost half of the current volume of Romania's foreign trade exchanges, steps up the process of modernization of its terminal and methods of handling goods, improving the transportation flows. For instance, a remarkable expansion was registered in the handling of transport of goods. A large-scale terminal functions efficiently in the port for shipping, unloading and loading in this system. As a



METALLURGY

For years now the development of the metallurgical industry in Romania has been a priority. Our photo shows the wire rolling mill, a unit commissioned in 1983 as part of the Metallurgical Enterprise, itself only five years old at that time.

The rolled up wire you can see is meant for concrete steel to be used in construction.

The high quality products of the Forand Enterprise are used not only in construction, but also in agriculture, telecommunications and electrical engineering. (Photo left)

COAL EXTRACTION RECORDS

There is an installation at the Romanians' open-pit in the giant's land: it is a huge bucket-wheel excavator (photo) whose utilization has resulted in remarkable coal extraction records.

Thus while in 1982 (when the Rovinari mining works was born) 10 million tons of lignite were dug, this year its output stood at 22 million tons.



THE DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF LOCALITIES PART AND PARCEL OF THE COUNTRY'S SOCIALIST PROSPERITY

The implementation of the programmes of planning the Romanian territory and localities — a fundamental strategic guideline of Romania's development until the year 2000 — will change the entire look of the country, bringing closer the conditions of life and work of villages to those of cities, stepping up the homogenization of Romanian society, the disappearance of the essential differences between cities and villages, between various social classes and categories.

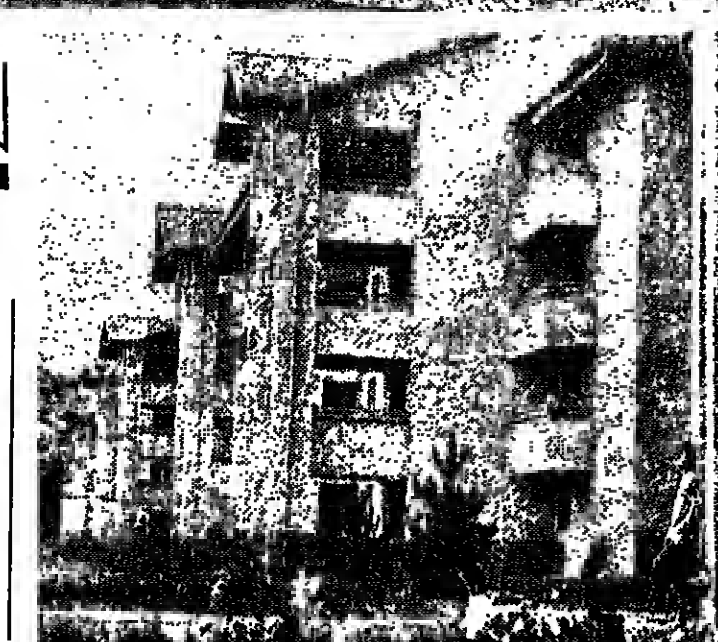
In order to fulfill these objectives, highly important measures have been applied along the years, especially since the Party's Ninth Congress. First of all, the country was reorganized from the territorial and administrative point of view, in 1968. Thus, the productive forces could be rationally spread throughout the territory, facilitating a balanced and more rapid socio-economic development of all counties, mainly of the ones lagging behind. As a consequence a strong material, first of all industrial, base was set up in all counties, one of them having now four or five industrial centres. This complex process was paralleled by a vast urban renewal, leading to the transformation of many localities into towns.

Obviously, expansion of the production forces and betterment of socioeconomic performance impose the continuation of a firm application of town planning measures, with a view to harmoniously developing towns and communes, to carrying through the programme providing equal conditions of life for all the country's citizens and gradually wiping off the essential differences existing between villages and towns.

In this context, the agroindustrial urban centres will become, in future years, defining presences in the country's economic, social and cultural life, structures with special importance in sustaining Romania's economic and administrative geography.

As a result of this, important industrial and farming units, small-scale industry enterprises will be opened in these centres and the services network will be expanded. Also, education, culture and health care establishments will be set up.

All these are steps taken with a view to drawing the working and living conditions in villages closer to those in towns.



AN AGROINDUSTRIAL TOWN

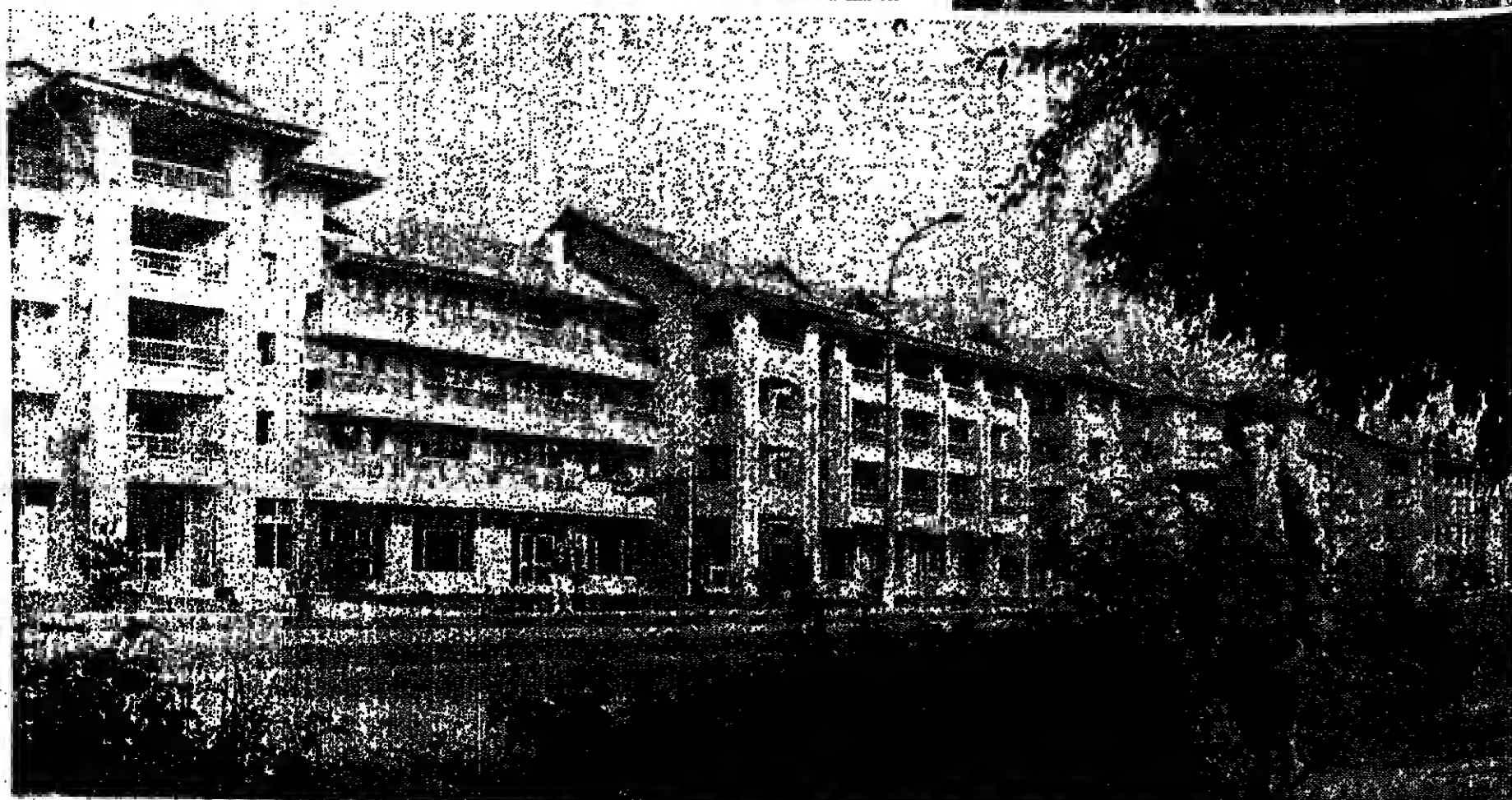
At Bragadiru, a commune lying a few kilometres away from Bucharest, which is due to become an agroindustrial town, the centre of a joint council, an idea is taking shape which will change the country's rural localities and raise them to a new, economically, socially and culturally superior condition.

For some time now the commune authorities have been discussing with the residents, pro-

posals have been made, some of which have already been implemented, and experience has been gathered. For each of the hundreds of localities of this kind will undoubtedly make its specific contribution to the unfolding on an ever larger scale of this important process. The debates and the exchange of ideas with the residents will continue, and all se-

lutions will be adopted only after judicious studies, after the consultation of specialists, and thorough analysis.

How does Bragadiru look today? Whoever has not visited it for a year or so is in for a big surprise. In the meantime, yesterday's suburban commune has become a real town with new streets lined by scores of modern, comfortable blocks and vil-



Bragadiru will become a locality with a complex, harmonious development, with urban type social and cultural buildings, commercial and service units, all new and modern, designed to beautify and improve the people's lives.

Therefore, this is how the agro-industrial centre of Bragadiru will look in two or three years, when 2,000 apartments are to be finished. Therefore this is how the people's lives in that little agroindustrial town near Bucharest will look like, in fact have already started to look. But what specific changes will occur in their occupations?

In this respect, we learnt a few details from Adrian Beldu, chairman of the Bragadiru producer cooperative farm. "We have already started to combine agriculture, which is to remain the basic activity in an agroindustrial centre, with industry, with small industry. For instance, with us the value of the production of the small industry and services (construction, dish cloth weaving and even a small smelting house) amount for 14 million lei out of 23 millions earned by the farm."

In fact the combination between the industrial activity and the agricultural one is a more general characteristic of this future agroindustrial centre, which has already taken shape. Thus, all people working in the three economic units of the locality, a true industrial area — the enterprise of spirit and steel, the factory of combined folder and the factory of hydroelectricity and machinery — are also engaged in the agricultural activity, fulfilling norms during their spare time, which adds to

In 1986, in the future agroindustrial town of Cornela were built the first 100 apartments in small houses with ground and upper floor. House building will be concluded at the end of 1988. Other three- and four-stories high buildings provided with commercial and service units on the ground floor have also been erected. At the same time, the water and sewerage network, access roads and alleys were finished. This year, will be also designed socio-cultural buildings including: an administrative office, a "Song to Romania" cultural centre, a general school for ten grades, also including the first two high school years, a kindergarten, numerous social establishments.

ing, built in keeping with an inspired architectural outlook which turns to advantage certain specific, traditional elements: lower constructions (three stories for blocks and one for villas, as a rule), the framework, the utilization of wood, brick and lime as building and decorative elements, balconies with arcades clearly reminding one of the traditional verandas. How do people live in the ever seven hundred flats that have already been completed in these houses? I talked to some people who were among the first to move into block P-7.

"We have everything we need, come and see for yourself," I was gladly invited by the Dedu family who received this beautiful and large three-room flat shortly after their marriage. Indeed, the flat, like all the others, offers all the necessary comforts: running water in the bathroom and kitchen (both very large, like the hall), sewerage, central heating, telephone and electricity. "The amenities and equipment progressed in step with the blocks of flats," I was told by engineer Ovidiu Babuș, head of the brigade No. 4 (within the Construction-Assembly Enterprise No. 1 in Bucharest), superintendent of the building. As a result the water supply network has been expanded by another two kilometres, the central heating network has been laid out on three kilometres, while the sewerage system has been built and put to use on some ten kilometres.

Mention should be made of the fact that water and sewerage works have been rationally concluded on Lăzărului street, too, within tens of villas — with four apartments each — which were built, lined on both sides of the street, with a special urban look. We talked to some of the people living there. "Besides, the large apartments with two, three and four rooms, we also benefit by a small garden of 90 m. area for household constructions where we grow small animals and poultry," told us Martin Solomon, showing us the vegetable beds among which he worked together with his wife.

Robi is a "second nature" but man, through his nature, aspires after better and more beautiful things. In fact, almost none of the inhabitants of this beautiful district, coming from Rada and Otopeni villages, have forgotten their "first

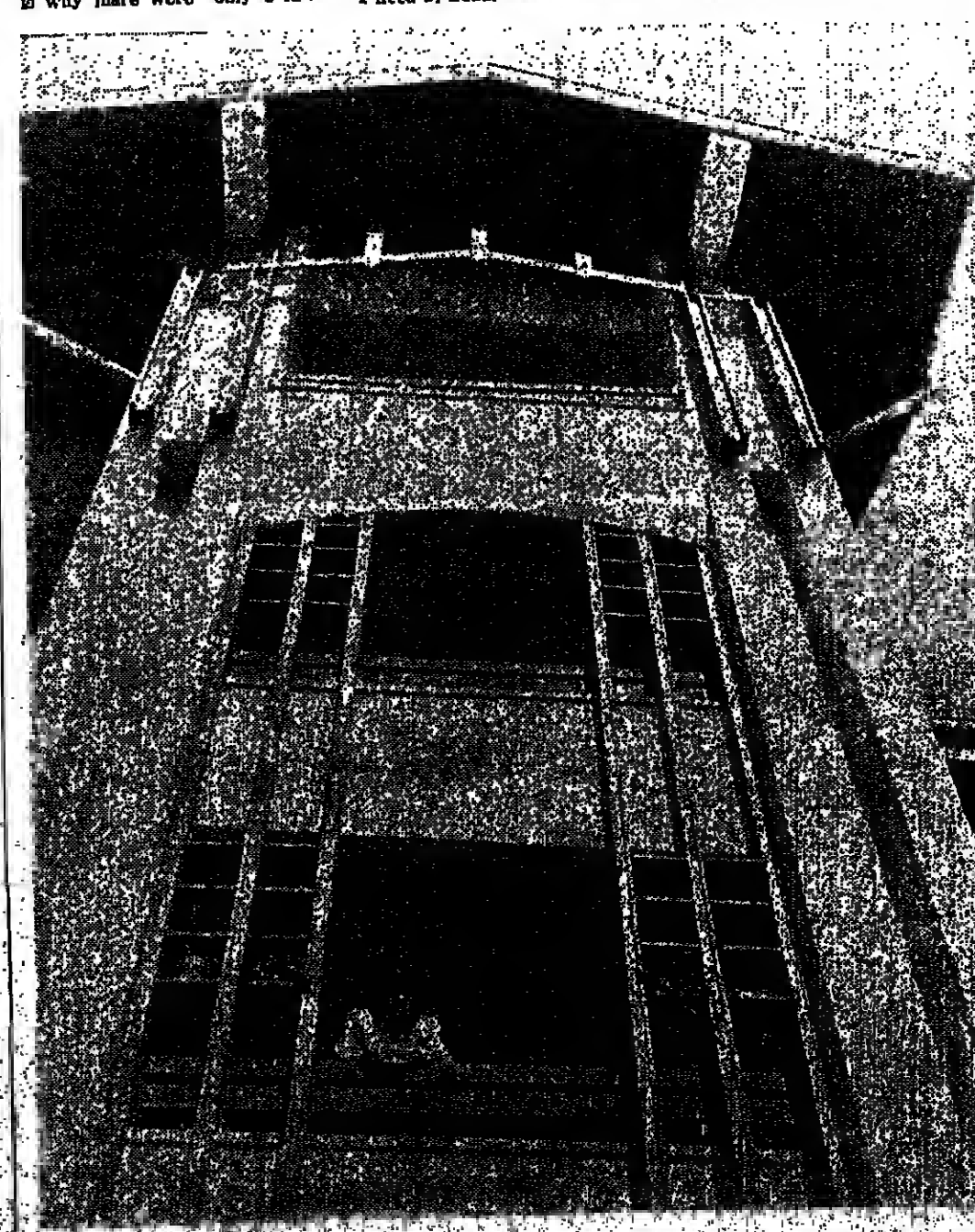
people who told us they haven't got used yet, although in the beginning, it was not easy to leave their old households, especially in the case of elderly people. In all respects, life is strong, especially when one must change one's way of living. But when reality proves what you hesitate to confess — that you tend to a better life, even habit — not by chance called may "second nature" — gives up. "I see I got accustomed quickly," told us old Aurel Borden. "Who isn't when it comes to good conditions? I live in my apartment house and have everything I need at hand. When I see how

this commune where I was born grows, I am glad I lived to see such changes. I didn't even dream of it in my youth."

If old people think that, young people, totally imbued by their feelings, understand by their feelings. "Frankly," I can hardly wait to receive an apartment here in the centre. In fact we could have received one in Bucharest, too, because my husband has been working for many years in a big enterprise there, but I prefer to live here."

A complex of modern facilities, with important social and educational functions. Indeed,

ing occupations, most of them working in agriculture too. That is why there were only a few



As in Bragadiru, new aspects can already be seen in the future agroindustrial town of Otopeni, where until now, the first 800 apartments have been built.

The town planning project includes the construction of 2,076 apartments at the same time with the reduction of the building area by 63 percent so that 371 hectares should be given back to the agricultural circuit. Apartments are built in two-story houses with 350 sq. m. lots and household constructions, and in three- or four-stories houses. The planning conception that laid the basis of the planning project was the construction of a representative ensemble along the Bucharest-Ploesti national highway and of most social and cultural buildings in the centre of the commune. Having in view the locality's position, a real main gate of the Capital given by the vicinity of the Otopeni International Airport, the need was taken into consideration when designing the buildings, of a representative architecture, which should combine elements of traditional Romanian architecture with modern functional elements.

In this respect was taken into consideration the creation of varied volumetric forms, giving personality to the locality through the use of elements like mezzanines and balconies in an architecture where full walls dominate, commercial ground floors being marked by brick plates.

their incomes. Before the construction of the three enterprises workers spent their leisure time travelling by commuter trains. The reduction and elimination of commutation are another goal to be reached through the expansion of complex activities — agricultural, industrial, public services — in the newly-built agroindustrial towns. Naturally, the goals and demands to be fulfilled through the creation of new agroindustrial centres which, for instance, at Bragadiru, have already taken shape, are much more numerous and complex. However, all of them are subordinated to a generous idea: the gradual pace taking into consideration reality, the legitimate demands of the people belonging to a society with a profoundly humanitarian programme of authentic development, of the different activities between villages and cities, the improvement of the people's living standards, the continuous betterment of the economic and cultural life.

TON MARIN
FROM DORU TOROACHE

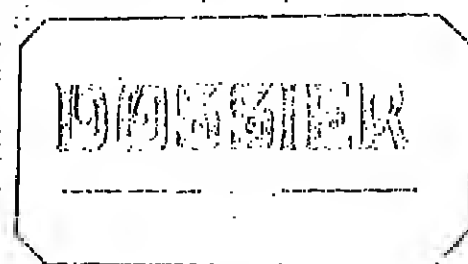
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND THE EXIGENCIES OF THE NEW AGRARIAN REVOLUTION

MODULAR DESIGNED TREES • FRUIT VARIETIES PROMOTION CRITERIA • GENE BANKS FOR ALL FRUIT-TREE VARIETIES • SPECIALIZATION OF THE MAJOR FRUIT FARMING REGIONS • ZONING AND MICROZONING OF VARIETIES • CAPITALIZING ON SLOPING GROUNDS • SMALLER AREAS, LARGER PRODUCTIONS

How much does a tree of today resemble one of 20-30 years ago? The big, imposing trees from our grandparents' gardens are part of our recollections. The trees from superintensive orchards are now, at the end of the century, small, trimmed army style, crowded, partially in line, forming a vegetal fence that borders a narrow alley on which a small tractor passes.

The rigorously scientific circle of intensive plantations is not less optimistic than the beautiful image of the orchards of yesterday.

The intentional small size of the trees, their crowding to the biological limits of resistance were obtained with the programmatic thought of forcing the explosive growth of production. Because in these orchards fruits are in larger quantities, more beautiful and more tasty. And a worm in a whole orchard is more rare than a winning lottery ticket.



In the 1960s Romania had, among the first countries in the world, the courage to count on the promises of intensive type cultures.

For a short period of time there was a real fever of plantation. The area of Romanian orchards spectacularly grew from 212 thousand ha in 1960 to 428 thousand ha in 1970. Classical plantations were still vigorous, while the new ones won new grounds. After 1970, superintensive systems were adopted, replacing only declining orchards.

The fruit growing patrimony is of 352,000 ha. If we considered the number of trees compared to that of the population, we would find out there is a real orchard to each inhabitant. In fact, the present area ensures a fruit production two times larger than nutritional considerations necessary for the food of a single person (65 kg per year).

From the existence of this possibility comes the massive presence of Romanian fruits — fresh or canned — on the world markets.

"Our generation has restructured the national horticultural area," said Eng. Tuncu Alina, the scientific director of the Institute for Fruit Tree Research and Production, in Mărculești, Argeș county. "The range of varieties has almost totally changed with the native fruit tree species — apple, pear, cherry, peach, apricot, nut, olive growing in our pedoclimatic conditions. The promotion criteria were firm and productive, the fruits' taste qualities, for some species preservation qualities, and for all the abundance of nutritional components."

The trends and orientations in Romanian fruit farming pursue the continuation of the process of intensive plantations. The creation of new high-yield varieties on the one hand has in view the quantitative growth of production and on the other the improvement of the fruit quality, through the hormonal control of fruiting including. The labs of the research stations are striving to obtain perfect fruit.

Pursued at the same time is an ever bigger economic efficiency of fruit-tree cultivation. The concentration of plantations on hilly and mountainous grounds is matched by a growing specialization of fruit-farming areas. The lowering of pollution is another concern. Strains resistant to diseases and pests, likely to lead to the production of even stimulation of chemical treatments, are sought.

The large costs of mellorization works, the pay off rate extended to tens of years, the ordinary longevity impart a certain stability to the options of development and technological organization.

The mellorization of big areas involves a prospective thinking and a well defined, economically argued strategy.

In this context, our colorator wanted to point out the fact that the socialist type property and the support granted by the state with investment funds favored massive plantations on areas of hundreds of hectares, in specialized fruit growing basins, suitably designed according to the latest technological and organizational principles.



The "Programme concerning wine and fruit tree growing during 1989-1990" has in view:

- the continuous production growth of grapes and fruits based on the generalization of intensive technologies
- the setting up of highly productive plantations on sloping lands and dunes
- the increase of the arable land by reclaiming vineyards and orchards, which have concluded their production cycle
- the extension, with priority, of areas meant for table grapes and cherry, sweet cherry, peach, apricot and nut orchards
- the growth of areas cultivated with fruit trees and strawberries.

Newly built storage capacities ensure the supply of the urban population with fresh fruit per capita during winter.

1970
1.7 kg
1975
16.9 kg
1980
31.5 kg

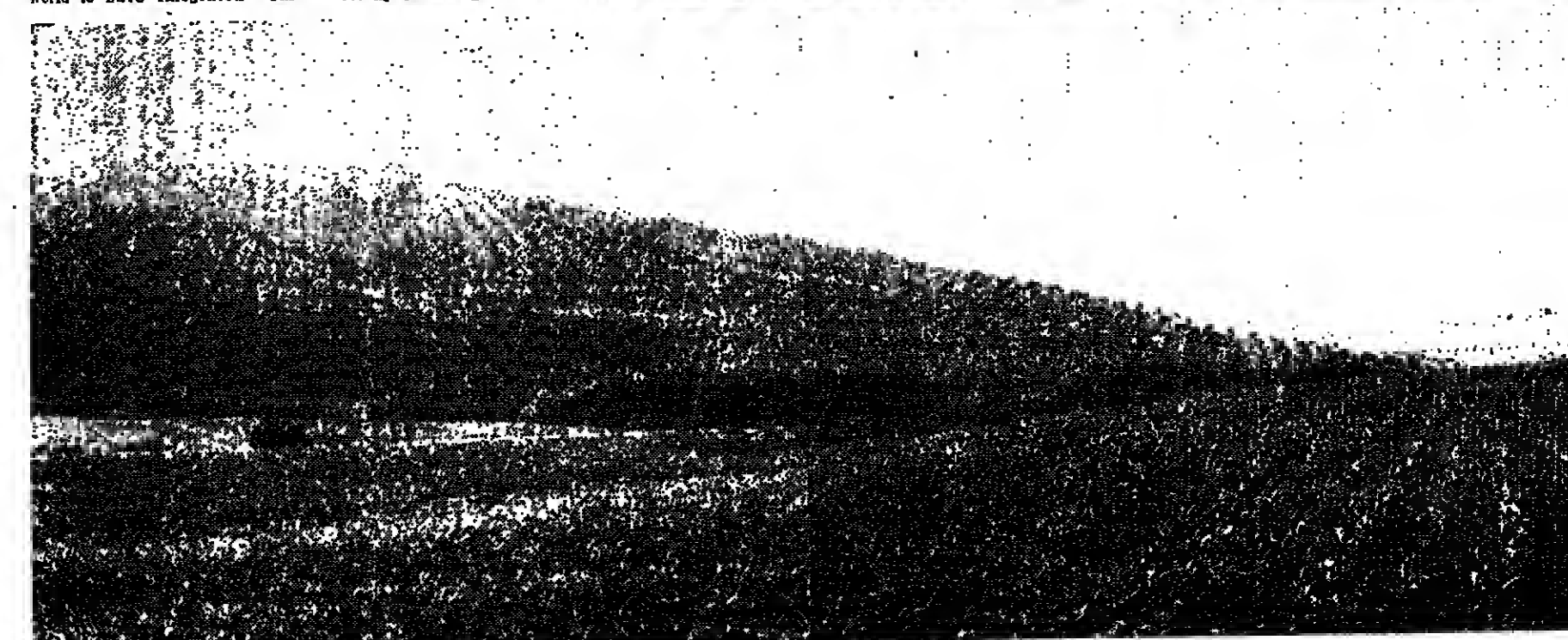
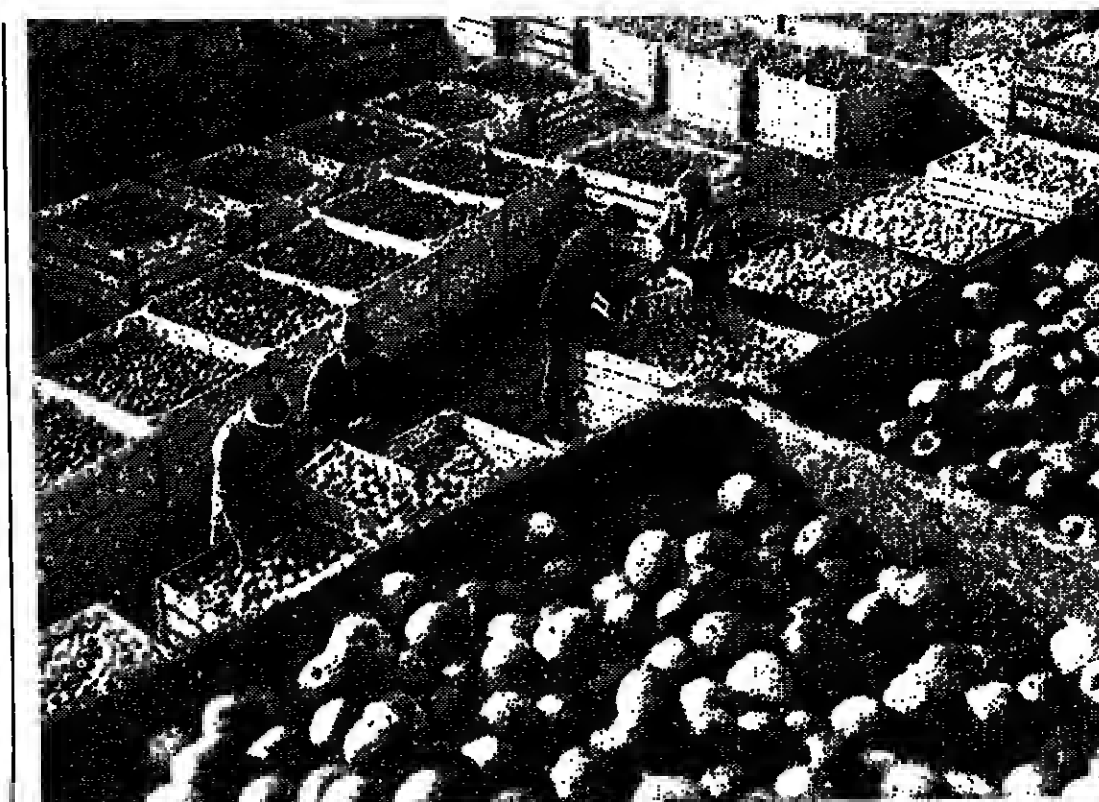
The first large, intensive-type orchards in Romania were planted with apple trees. Why it was the biblical fruit that tempted fruit mellorizers is easy to explain: it met the requirements already mentioned, answered the social commandment and was in the focus of most mellorizers in Europe.

But the decision by the research station of Vălnic, Dinuștea county, of the first small-scale apple-tree varieties adapted to living in groups of 800-1,200 on a hectare (ten times more than in conventional orchards) and being genetically resistant to diseases came as a shock to fruit farmers. This was largely due to the conservative force of tradition but also to the gap existing then between research and production. In the sixth decade the Romanian mellorizers were in the vanguard of research at a world level. "We were among the first institutes in the world to have integrated our

characteristics from foreign strains (specific to other soil and weather conditions) have been made possible by the efforts made by research stations and higher education establishments with a view to obtaining fully consolidated mother plants, able to feed an adaptive crown.

Most often, these mother plants are the descendants of old homegrown, therefore fully adapted, varieties. "The working hypothesis," said professor Ion Cepoiu, head of the fruit-growing department of the Horticulture Faculty in Bucharest, "has been provided from the very beginning by small-size mother plants. But in the traditional fruit bearing flora, these varieties had not been grown. Thus, accidental cases, related more to chance than to rigour, were identified."

Now, after so many years of researches, collections have been set up including all strains and



THE PLUM, CHERRY AND PEACH TREES ARE COMING UP

work with large-scale production. The first large-scale production of fruit trees was achieved by the rapidly assimilating it in the farming practice," said engineer Tuncu Alina, director of the Mărculești Institute. "Proving this was the priority obtained to the creation of new strains, genetically resistant to diseases and to certain pests, and the impressive amount of fruit — about 37-40 thousand wagonfuls a year — produced by the farms of our research stations."

Also to be added here is the fact that over 120 strains of fruit bearing trees have been homologated in Romania, most of them, the pride of researchers, being the 27 original genotypes of apple. Varieties such as Francusul de Vălnic, Generalul de Vălnic, etc., have earned a powerful international prestige.

With praiseworthy modesty, engineer Gheorghe Mădălin, coordinator of the genetic mellorization department of the Mărculești Institute, said that what nature took centuries to create is taken up by the mellorizer, consolidated and launched into production. This generous and intelligent complicity between the scientist and nature is remarkable. Certainly, some kind of selection has been at work since time immemorial. But the modern science of fruit growing and especially the researches of the last few decades have created a tree born in a nursery which no longer resembles the natural tree born from a seed, letting chance take its way.

This tree, whose small size has already been mentioned, has two distinct components, brought together following a quasi-industrial process: the mother plant (the root system of the fruit) and the variety (the crown and the fruit).

The restructuring of the area of fruit growing in Romania, fruit growing, the assimilation of

varieties encountered and making up gene banks for every species.

The national apple collection for insipid strains and varieties and several thousands of foreign strains and varieties. National gene banks have been set up for all fruit bearing trees grown. The creation of a new mother plant calls for the replacement of characteristics currently "bearing" from gene banks. The achievements of a type of mellorization of a type of mellorization, the replacement of the old vegetative reproduction methods by the grafting has been achieved to 10-15 years.

With the apple-tree for insipid, the Romanian researchers have homologated a range of 27 types of mother plants, each of them adapted to different pedoclimatic conditions.

Even though one cannot say that apples have gone out of fashion, we notice that forecasts for this millennium indicate a comparative decrease of their share in fruit farming. Only 6,000 ha will be planted with apples in 1985-1990, down from 15,000 ha in 1960-1965. Consequently the area cultivated with plums, 15,000 ha planted in 1960-1965, and 15,000 ha in 1985-1990, cherries and sour cherries (4,500 ha and 15,000 ha, respectively) are growing spectacularly. Also growing is the area under peaches, a species whose current

varieties supply enough fruit to be eaten fresh from June 15 to October 30.

A special place in the programme outlining the future of Romanian tree growing is assigned to fruit shrubs and oliveberries.

Under the same programme, tree growing areas are better specialized, and the zoning and microzoning of varieties are more carefully achieved. For each variety has an optimum zone, or, to put it differently, the most profitable variety

must be grown in each pedoclimatic zone. Even as concerns the definition and individualization of tree growing areas these years, Romania is going through a period of significant mutations. In the first place one notices a tendency of the areas planted with fruit trees to decrease (slowly, it is true), in parallel with the tremendous growth of the total output, therefore of yields per hectare.

On the other hand fruit-tree

(cont. on p. 8)

100 MILLION KILOGRAMS OF STRAWBERRIES

A strange theoretical question has been disputed by horticulturists: does strawberry culture belong to vegetable or fruit growing? Fruit growers won, with the argument of the quantity of woody mass and this plant's long life. Therefore the strawberry plant was accredited as belonging to fruit trees.

Beyond theoretical considerations, this plant enjoys exceptional interest in Romania, in the last years. During the 1961-1985 five-year plan period, 15 thousand ha of strawberry plants were planted in the whole country, as much as plum, peach and cherry trees taken together. This year, the area grew by ten thousand ha, and until the year 1990 the figure will grow by 20 thousand ha.

The action of concentrating production in specialized farms has continued: this year 1988 registered 500 farms of 15,000 ha. On the overall a production of 100 thousand tons of fruit is estimated this summer.

All plants — hundreds of millions — are direct descendants of the varieties of ten plants, each belonging to another variety. Of course, obtained through "in vitro" multiplication.



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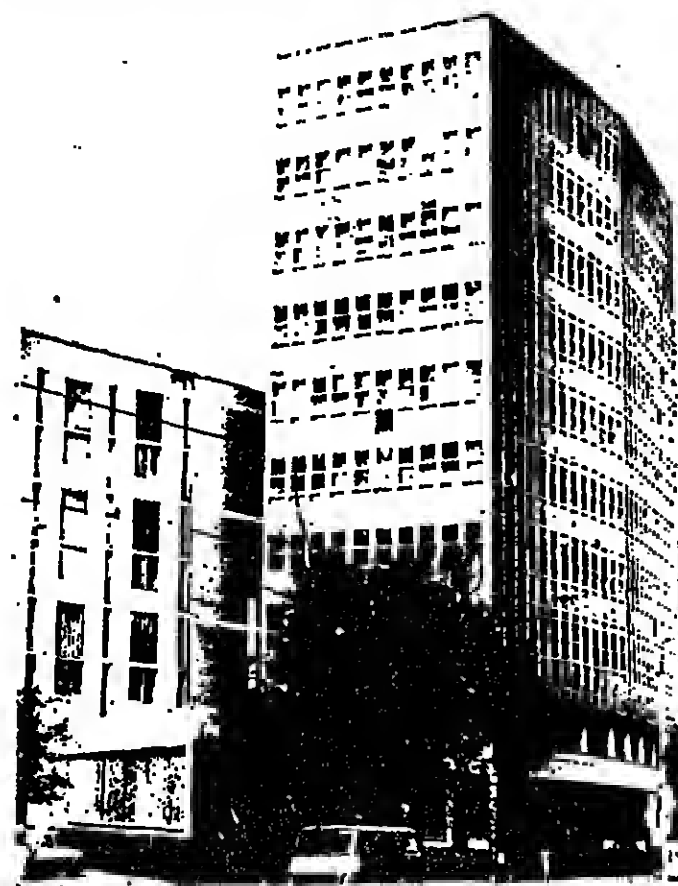
If, generally speaking, "man is the measure of all things" as Protagoras put it, we must stress that the quality of your products and the productivity of your labour are strictly conditioned by the use of MEASURING AND CONTROL APPARATUS.

The post- or in-process sizing of your products supplies you the information through which you can become EFFICIENT as a producer.

It is this efficiency (viz. quality, producti-

vity, competitiveness) that the Fine Mechanics Enterprise (IME) of Bucharest has in mind when offering its beneficiaries:

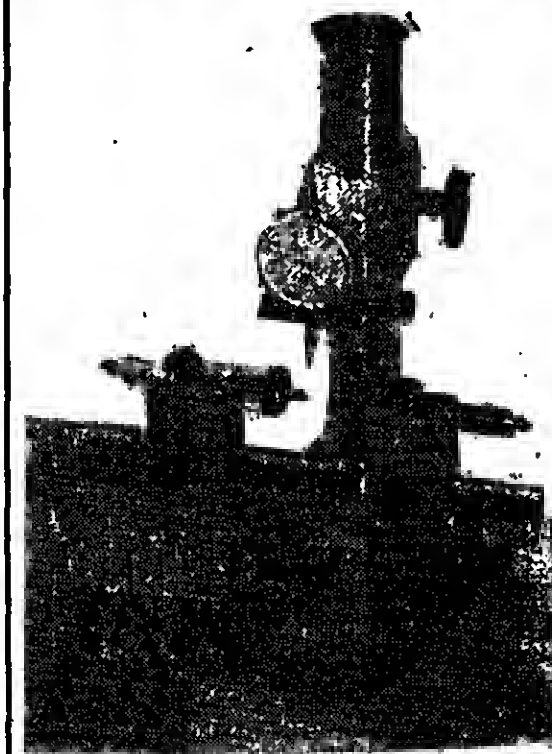
- measuring and control apparatus for lengths, pressures, temperatures, discharges, times and speeds;
- special tools (diamond and sinter-carbide metal tools), holders, high-accuracy and fineness devices and dies, having a high degree of productivity and durability.



MEASURING AND DIMENSIONAL CONTROL APPARATUS AND INSTRUMENTS

- dial gauges ● bore dial gauges ● gear measuring instruments ● threaded conic gauges for the oil industry.

- circular dial snap gauges ● gear pitch-error and gear-tooth-thickness measuring instruments ● reading ball-gauges; optical read-out devices and rules.



IN- AND POST-PROCESS SIZING GAUGES

- They are built according to modern principles, with pneumatic inductive, piezoelectric transducers, whose signals are processed and displayed analogically or numerically in modular-type electronic units:
- pneumatic post-process sizing gauge — SUPERJET ● pneumatic post-process sizing gauge — ELSUPERJET
- post-process sizing gauge with electric contacts ● inductive electronic post-process sizing gauge ● roughness measuring post-process sizing gauge, smoothness measuring gauge (electronic levels).
- in-process sizing gauge for continuous exterior cylinder surfaces with one and two measuring points ● for continuous exterior surfaces and for continuous interior cylinder surfaces with two measuring points ● in-process sizing gauge for centreless grinding machines ● in-process sizing gauge for exterior diameters of narrow surfaces ● copying systems mounted on machine tools for processing through copying after a pattern.



INDUSTRIAL CLOCK-TYPE APPARATUS, INSTALLATIONS AND TEMPERATURE CONTROL

- Programmers ● electromechanical impulse counters ● programme control for automatic washing machines ● discharge counters with oval wheels ● electromechanical tachographs for motor vehicles ● complex speed measuring installations for locomotives and subways.

AUTOMATION ELEMENTS FOR PRESSURE AND MECHANISMS

This apparatus family includes pressure switches and thermostats. They are indispensable in the automation of starting and stopping installations using fluids whose temperature and pressure must be maintained within certain preadjusted limits. Pressure switches and thermostats are made by the Fine Mechanics Enterprise in a wide variety according to the pressure and type of media they are mounted on and the conditions of the environment.

REMEMBER THE IMF IMF TRADEMARK



SINTER-CARBIDE METAL PRODUCTS

The main groups of products bearing the "CARMESIN" mark — which are the object of the Bucharest Fine Mechanics Enterprise's production programme — are the following: sinter-carbide metal brazable tips and inserts for metal cutting; sinter-carbide metal inserts for mining tools; sinter-carbide metal inserts specific to the wood industry, building materials and extraction industry; products for drilling installations; dies for screws and nuts; dies for ball bearings; other types of products upon the foreign partners' demand.

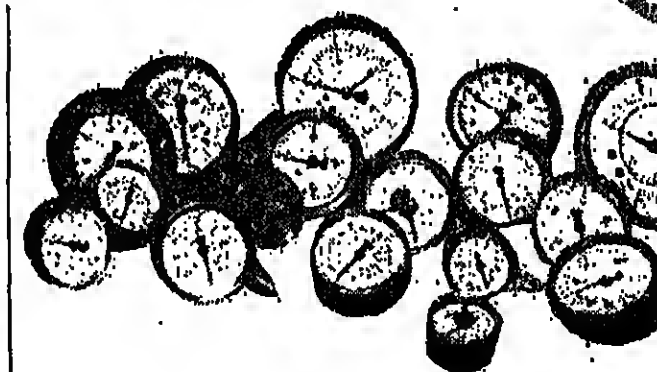
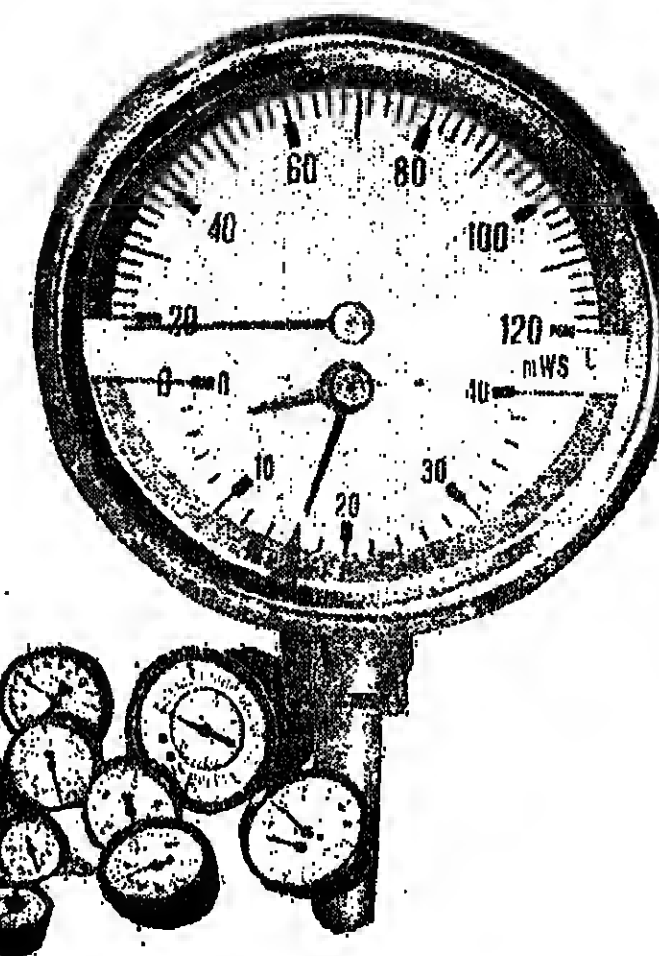
According to the concrete destination indicated by the end user, these products are executed out of the PKMG groups of carbide metal powder, after ISO international standards or according to other requirements specified in the order.

In order to increase the durability and performances of the sinter-carbide metal inserts, the method is applied of coating them with extra-hard layers of titanium carbide, giving the inserts an increased durability of up to 300 percent, as compared to the normal execution.



PRESSURE GAUGES

Through the great diversity resulting from constructive variations based on measuring limits, accuracy, diameter, connection and scale type, the Fine Mechanics Enterprise can satisfy the most exigent demands of its clients (standard pressure gauges or of special construction, upon demand). There are: ● general use industrial monometers ● vibration-proof monometers ● corrosion-proof monometers ● capsule-monometers ● double indication monometers ● monometers-thermometers.



DIAMOND TOOLS

The processing of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, of sinter-carbide metal, stone, concrete, ceramic and glass — through modern methods — calls for the use of diamond tools on an ever larger scale.

The manufacturing programme of this kind of tools is achieved at IMF on the basis of the licence purchased from WINTER firm of West Germany and is currently in full swing as a result of the growing demand. It comprises the following more important groups:

- diamond mills with metallic or resinous binder of various shapes and sizes, with cubic boron nitride.
- diamond tools for construction-material processing
- diamond tools with galvanic binder
- honing diamond blades
- diamond posts
- diamond tools for trimming and shaping abrasive stones
- chambering tools with extra-hard materials from diamond polycrystals or cubic boron nitride
- diamond drawing dies.

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● ASI three-phase asynchronous motors: output: 0.25-90 kw; voltage: 220-660 v; frequency: 50-60 cycles; squirrel cage rotor; mounting arrangement: B3 (DIN 42673) or B5 (DIN 42677); protection: IP44 (DIN 40050)

● AFI three-phase asynchronous motors: output: 5.5-90 kw; voltage: 380 v; frequency: 50-60 cycles; wound rotor with permanently applied brushes; mounting arrangement: B3 (DIN 42673) or B5 (DIN 42677); protection: IP44 (40050)

● ASA explosion-proof motors Ex d.3n.04: output: 0.6-90 kw; voltage: 220-660 v; frequency: 50-60 cycles; squirrel cage rotor; protection: IP54

machines, vacuum cleaners, fonz, coffee grinders

● Single-phase electric motors with centrifugal starting relay, 1 or 2 speeds, 0.25 kw/1,500 rpm, 220 v

DC motors; MCG type - for general appliance; output: 4 kw-280 kw; MCU type - for machine tools; output: 3.25 kw-200 kw; Mill motors MCM type - series 802-808; output: 3.7 kw-75 kw

DC motors with axial oil gap and disk rotor, output: 180 w/370 w; 750 w/1,200 w; 1,500 w/2,200 w; 4,000 w/5,500 w

● Welding converters: CS 125 A, CSCA 250 A, CS 315 A,

CS 550 A, CS 3 (350 A), CS 5 (500 A)

● Welding sets with Diesel engine - GST 350 A, GST 500 A

● General sets powered by Diesel engines, stationary or mobile: 4 kva; 7.5 kva; 10 kva; 15 kva; 20 kva; 38 kva; 80 kva; 125 kva; 150 kva

● Synchronous generators: 231 and 400 v, 50-60 cycles, at: 5 kva; 6.2 kva; 7.5 kva; 15 kva; 30 kva; 58 kva; 40 kva; 50 kva; 80 kva; 125 kva; 150 kva

● Medium-frequency converter sets: GEF-AV, 50 kw, 8,000 Hz; GEF-AV, 56 kw, 8,000 Hz; GEF-AV, 100 kw, 8,000 Hz; GEF-AV, 110 kw, 8,000 Hz; GEF-AV, 125 kw, 2,500 Hz; GEF-AV, 300 kw, 2,500 Hz; GEF-AV, 300 kw, 8,000 Hz

● Distribution transformers: rated power: 25-1,600 kva, rated voltage: 6-35 kv

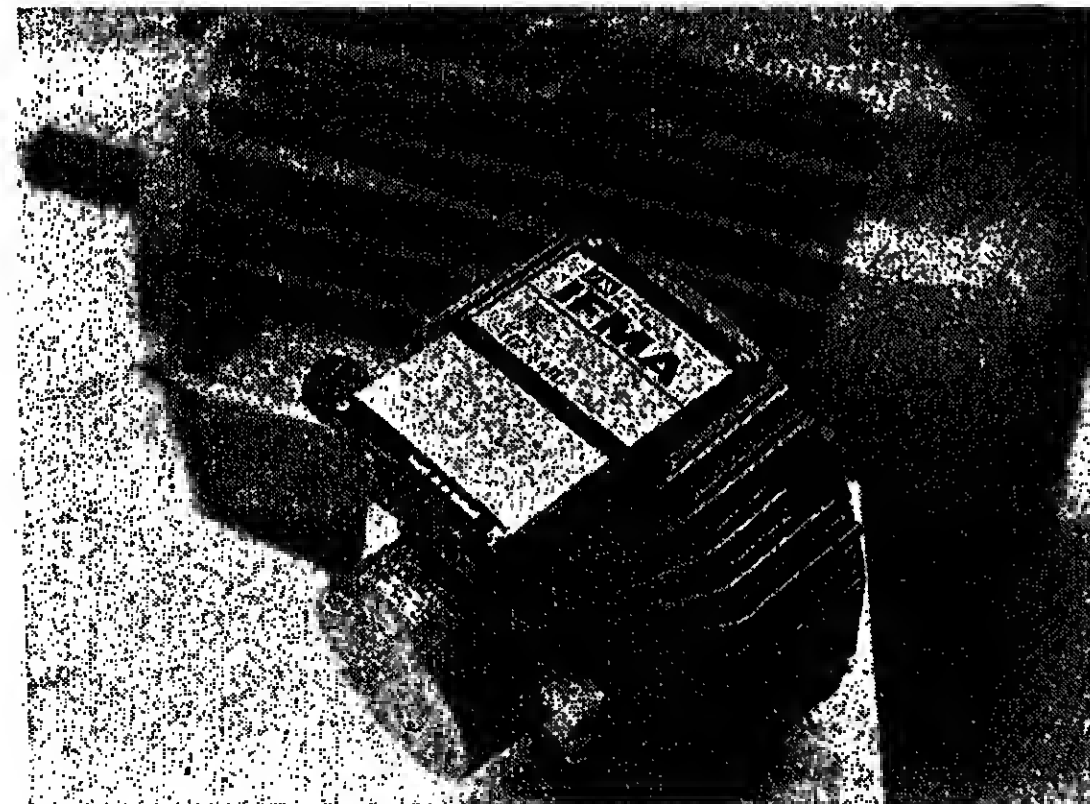
● Power transformers and autotransformers: rated power: 2,000-400,000 kva; rated voltage: up to 400 kv

● Medium and high-voltage

age: 6-35 kv and 110 kv; symmetrical breaking capacity: 250-3,000 Mva; 5) small oil volume, type IC (Della Alghero-Franco Ilconco); rated voltage: 6-20 kv; symmetrical breaking capacity: 250-500 Mva; 6) ditto for the rated voltage of 66, 110, 220 and 400 kv; 7) oil contactor type CAM, 6 kv, 100 a

● Disconnecting switches: indoor use (SMI-SIT); rated voltage up to 35 kv; rated current up to 6,300 a; 8) outdoor use (SME-STE-STEP); rated voltage up to 400 kv; rated current up to 1,600 a; 9) indoor load break switches, type SITS; rated voltage up to 20 kv; breaking capacity up to 7 Mva; 10) pantograph type PHAF-1-110/200

● Instrument transformers: 1) current transformers: 1. plastic insulation (types CIS, CTS); 2. synthetic resins (type CTS); rated voltage up to 35 kv; indoor use; 3. ditto, type CTS (CIRTO, CIRTI); 4. oil type (CESU and CESU); rated voltage up to 400 kv, for outdoor use; 5) voltage transformers: 1. synthetic resins (type TIRMO, TIRMO volume, type IUP, rated voltage up to 35 kv; 2) oil type (rated voltage up to 35 kv)

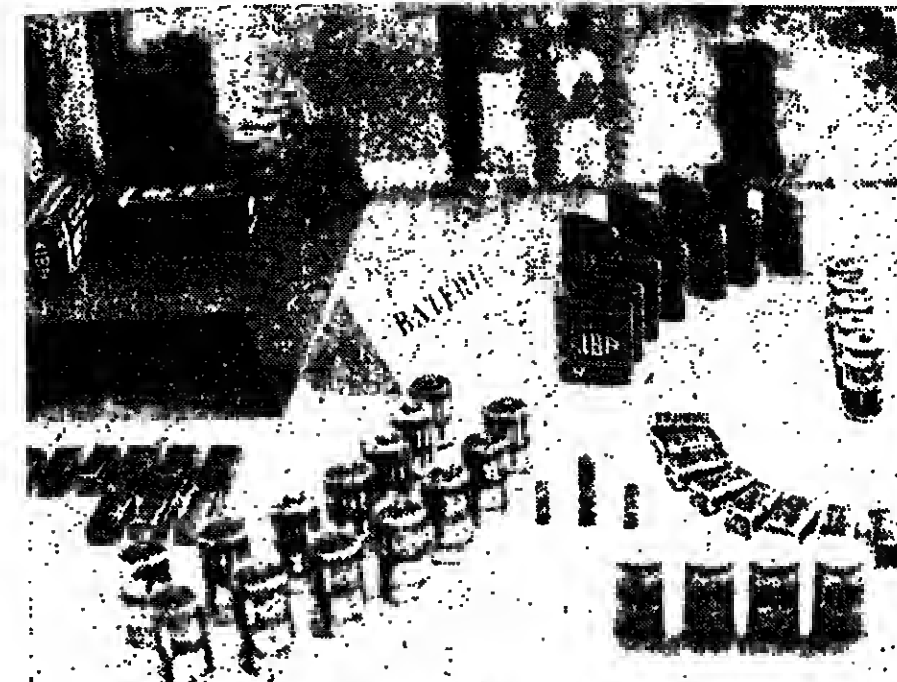
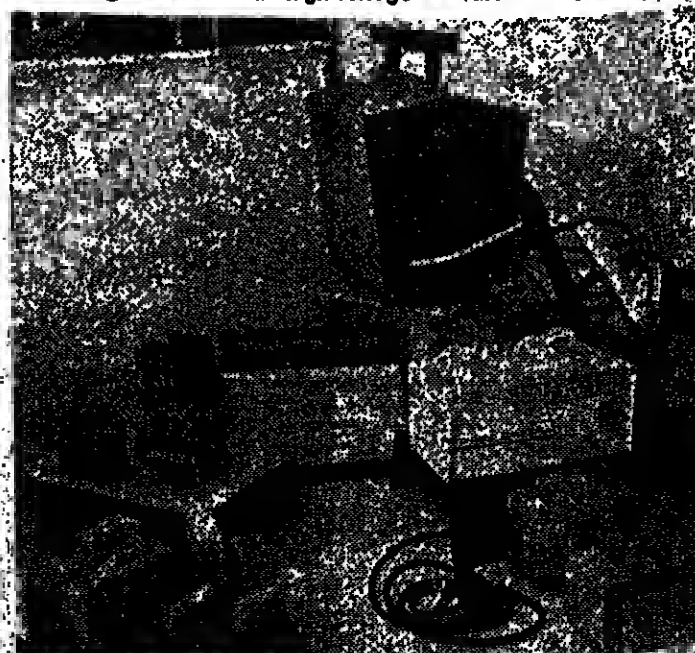
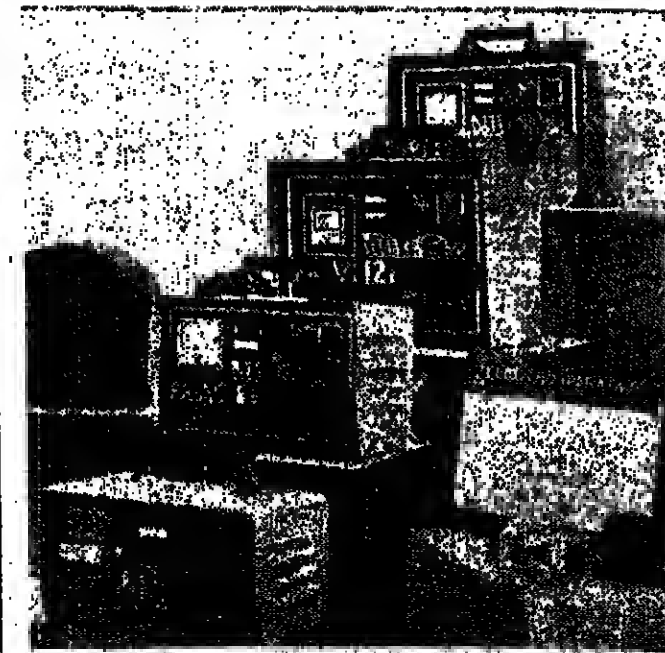


(40050) in operation in explosive ambience

● Three-phase asynchronous motors at large output: output: 110-1,000 kw; frequency: 50-60 cycles; squirrel cage rotor; low voltage: 220-660 v - MIB & MAB; high voltage: 3.3-6 kv - MIB & MAB; MIB & MAB; wound rotor: low voltage: 220-660 v - MIP & MUR; high voltage: 3.3-6 kv - MIP, MAP; MUF & MEP; mounting arrangement: B3 (DIN 42673) and B5 (DIN 42677); protection: IP23 or IP44 (DIN 40050)

● TAM three-phase asynchronous motors: output: 0.25-7.5 kw; voltage: 220-500 v; frequency: 50-60 cycles; squirrel cage rotor; mounting arrangement: B3 (DIN 42673), B5 (DIN 42677) and B14 aluminium casting

● Single-phase electric traction horse power motors for washing machines 2/12 poles, 2/16 poles, refrigerators, sewing



or double phase build for indoor or outdoor use; 2. oil types (TEMU-TEBU and TECU) rated voltage up to 400 kv single or double-phase build for outdoor use

● Medium-voltage fuses: rated voltage up to 35 kv; rated current up to 100 a; indoor use (type FI); outdoor use (type FE)

● Preload cells for indoor use for transformer stations up to 20 kv

● Indoor lighting fittings for fluorescent lamps

● Street lighting fittings for mercury lamps

● Lighting fittings for motor vehicles

● Lanterns

● Accumulators

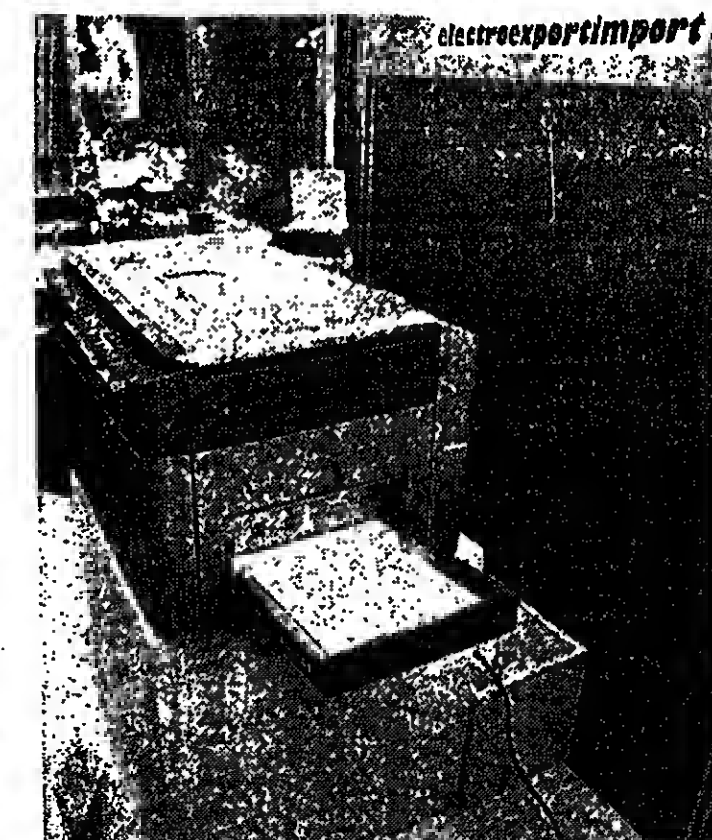
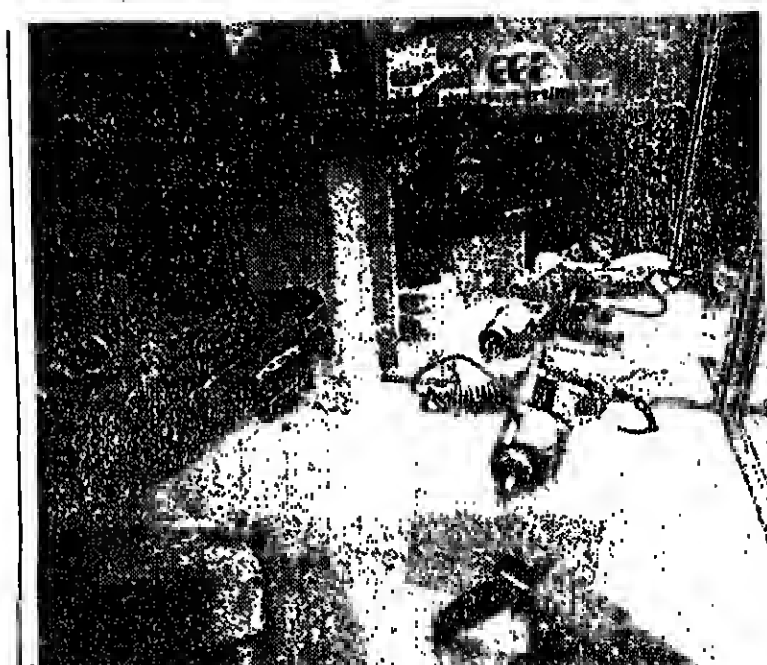
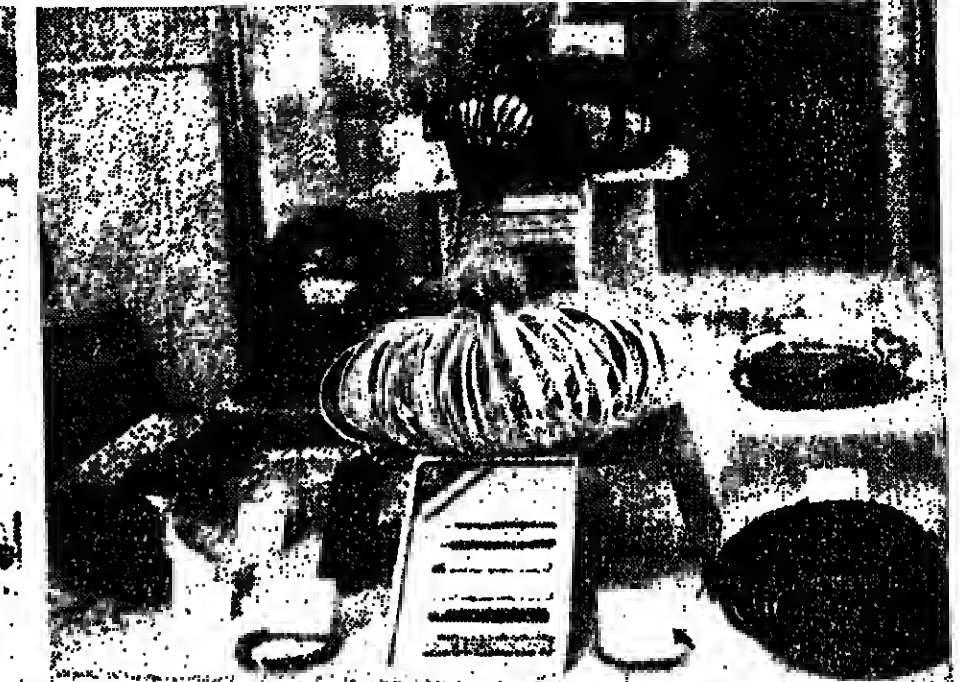
● Electric hand tools

● Electric refrigerators with compressors

● Electric home appliances: washing machines, oil radiators, electric hot plates, flat irons, vacuum cleaners, hair driers, electric coffee grinders, turbine radiators, window fans, table fans, attachments set for MG4 drilling machines, other electric heating appliances, household electric pumps

● Electroinsulating materials: textile and sticlotextolit o.o.

● Electric cables and conductors: Aluminium conductors for overhead lines; Steel-core aluminium conductors; Rubber-insulated-sheathed flexible cables, type NLH, NMH, NSH; Copper and aluminium PVC insulated conductors according to DIN-B5-NF-VDE; Telephone cables; Signalling cables; Copper and aluminium power cables, armoured and non-armoured, at 1.6 and 10 kv; Insula-



● Reactance coils, type BR

● Winding machines for transformer coils

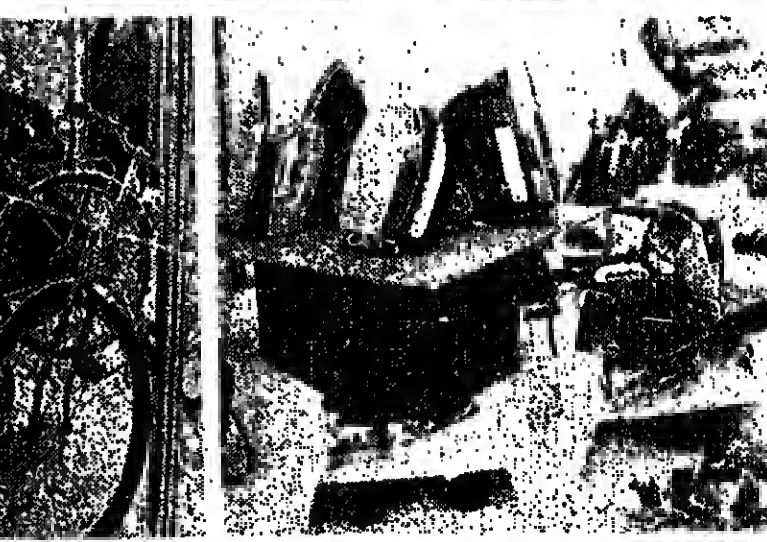
● Power capacitors: a) mineral oil (type CU); rated voltage: 0.380-0.500 kv; rated power: 10-15 kw; three phase build indoor mounting; b) chlorinated oil, type CS; rated voltage: 0.380-0.500 kv; rated power: 15-20 kw; three-phase build indoor mounting

● Low-voltage gears for industrial purpose and housing installations: contactors, relays, circuit breakers, push buttons, normal fuses, transformers, high rupture capacity low-voltage fuses, switches, sockets, etc.)

● Lamps

● Dry cells and electric batteries

● Lighting sources (high pressure mercury vapour lamps, gas bulbs, fluorescent lamps, standard incandescent lamps, ballasts for mercury and fluorescent lamps, starters)



tion: PVC, polyethylene or paper (mass-impregnated and mass-impregnated-non-draining)

● Equipment for electrotechnical industry manufactured in one piece or small series.

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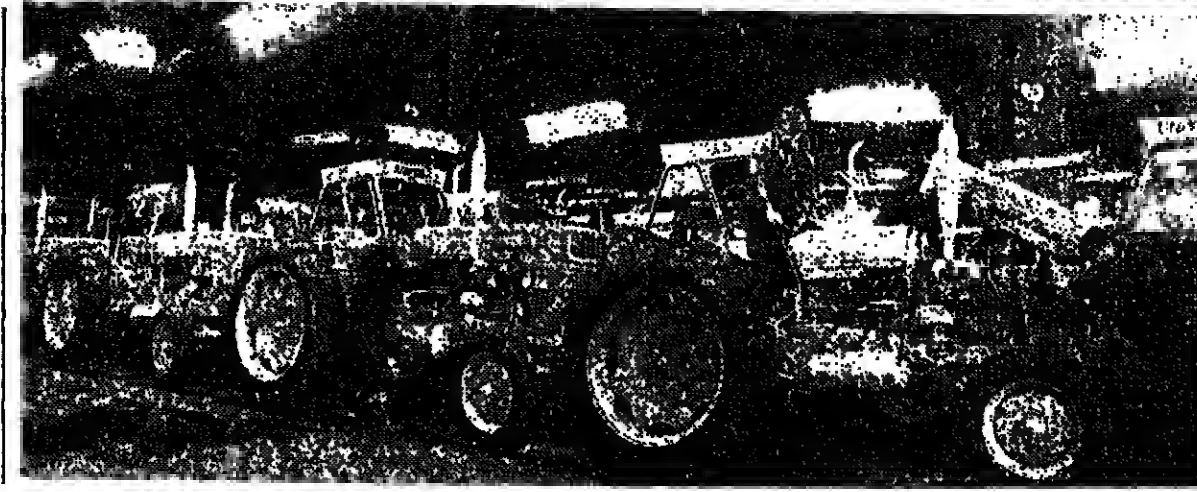
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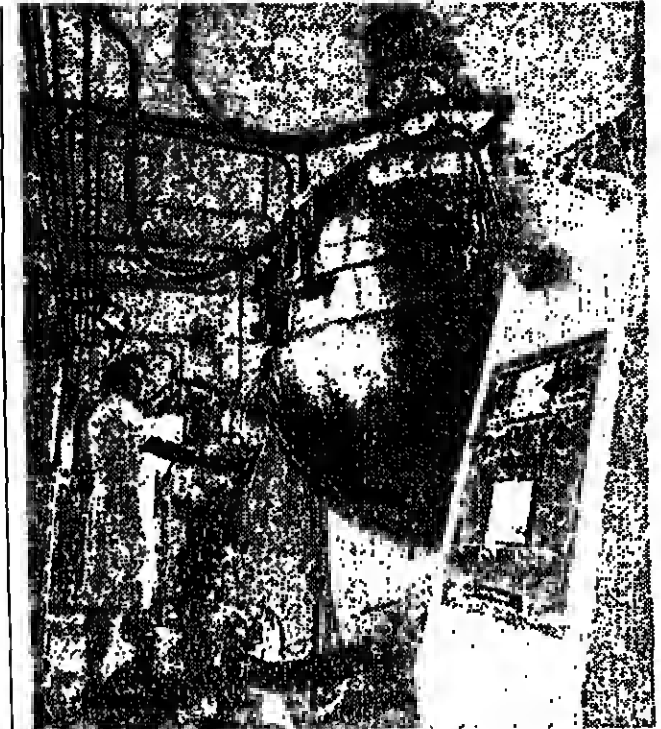
BEYOND 5,500 M

The other day, crude oil was drilled out of the column of a derrick, drilling to the Tisu Oana area. The well was identified as only at a depth of 1,000 m. The last conclusion of the geologists' expedition (at this oilfield) will hold important reserves which are, however, at a great depth. In order to reach the great depths proposed by geologists, the Romanian oil workers used the 125 EC drilling installation made at the 1 Mai enterprise in Ploesti. This highly productive installation has great drilling speed and high economic efficiency.



BEAUTY FACTORIES

The oldest beauty factory in Romania can be found in Bragov. The unit, called "Vivea" makes a wide variety of cosmetic products. The most famous and in demand both in the country and abroad are the cosmetics "Cordis" and "Alpina" ranges (creams, soaps, etc.) made from plant extracts. The famous face creams, tooth paste, other cosmetics products bearing the factory's name are also produced here. Such beauty factories are also located in Bucharest ("Mira") and Cluj-Napoca ("Farmex"). (Photo below)



SUMMER CAMPAIGN

The high temperature registered in the last days has contributed to an earlier ripening of wheat fields. Harvesting started in the country's southern plain. Through the areas involved, the human and mechanical forces involved, the minute organization and the intense tension of every moment, wheat gathering has the character of a great fight. It is also called the "summer campaign".

With the mechanical forces owned by each cereal cultivating unit, harvest can end in as much as ten days, with minimum crop losses. The second culture is sown in fields where wheat or barley were harvested.

The producer cooperative farm in Afumasi commune, located in the vicinity of the capital has, besides several hundred hectares of cereal cultures, big areas cultivated with tomatoes, green peppers, etc. (Photo below)



TRACTORS FOR 90 COUNTRIES

An event confirming the prestige enjoyed by Romanian tractors occurred in Cracovia where, upon the request of some foreign customers, the contracts for the first half of this year were honored one month earlier. The event coincided with the manufacturing of the 37,000th tractor and the exporting of the 11,000th one. Since 1975 the TII 435 industrial tractor has been manufactured at Craiova, which is meant for various operations in agriculture, construction, telecommunications and forestry. For its performances, the tractor was awarded gold medals at the Brno and Zagreb International fairs.

While the first Romanian tractor was made at Bragov four decades ago, in the last twenty years new centers of the tractor industry have emerged at Craiova, Miercurea Ciuc, Codlea, Timisoara and Iasi. Besides the well-known Bragov enterprise which by itself could no longer meet the demands of an expanding economy and those of foreign end users.

Thanks to their technical qualities and constantly proved reliability, Romanian tractors won diplomas at international fairs in Cairo, Dusseldorf, Lima, gold medals in Zagreb, Brno and Leipzig, the International quality trophy in Madrid and Africa's International trophy. As a corollary of these appreciations, the tractor end users' interest has constantly grown for these representative products of the Romanian machine building industry.

Since 1965, when a little more than 12,000 tractors were sold on foreign markets, export has grown by 18 percent. At present, half of the production in this sector is exported to 90 countries on all continents, among the main end users being countries with traditions in the field: USA, Italy, France, etc. In a series of states like the USA, Canada, Australia, Ghana, Iran, New Zealand, India, China, Egypt, lines have been built for tractors of original Romanian design. (Photo above)



THE FELIX FAMILY

Felix-300, a computer designed and built by a group of experts of the Bucharest Computer Enterprise, has recently rolled off an assembly line of that enterprise. The new computer is compatible with all the other computing systems in the Felix range.

Only 16 years have elapsed since the manufacturing by the Bucharest enterprise of Felix C-250, the first Rom in the Felix computer series. (Photo left)

THE YOUNG ROMANIAN PHYSICISTS

PLACED FIRST

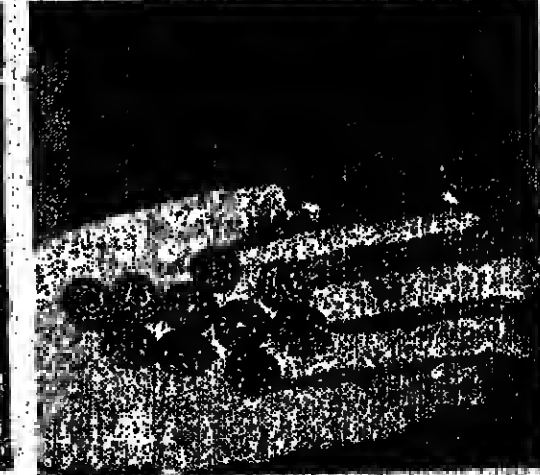
The 19th international physics student contest took place this year at Innsbruck, Austria, over June 22-July 2. It was attended by 130 pupils from 27 countries on all continents.

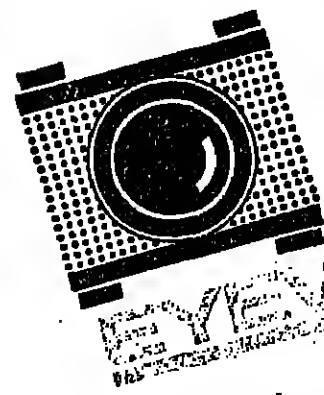
Romania's team again placed first in the overall national standings. The five Romanian pupils won one first prize - Ovidiu Badu Popescu, an 11th grader at the Nicolae Bălcescu high school in Bucharest - and four second prizes: Cristian Gavrilas, a 12th grader at the mathematics-physic high school No. 1 in Brasov, Danila Diaconescu, a 12th grader at the Sieton col. Mare high school in Suceava, Stefan Simion, a 12th grader at the I.L. Caragiale high school in Ploesti, and Lucian Ciobanu, a 11th grader at the first high school in Sibiu.

GEMS CALLED BEARINGS

In terms of technical equipment the bearings enterprise of Alexandria, a basic unit in this field, is on a par with the best similar enterprises producing in the world. Currently, its manufacturing list comprises 175 basic types of bearings in over 500 constructional variants having most diverse applications in the mechanical engineering industry (motor transportation means, tractors, farming machinery), the electronics and electric engineering industry and

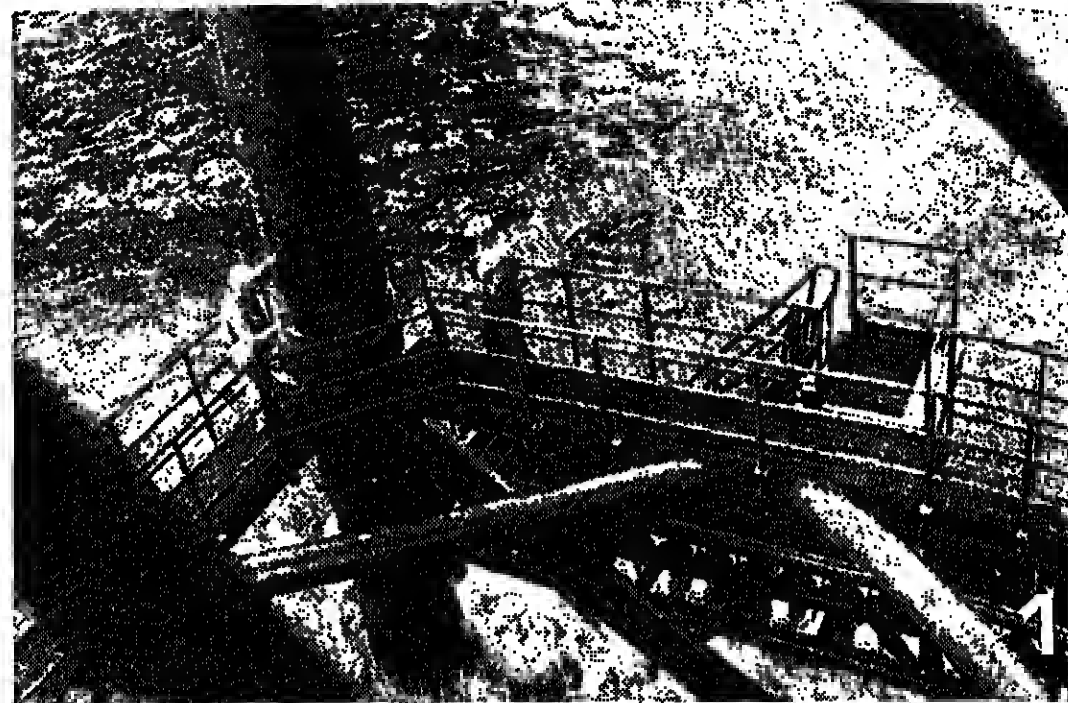
other branches of the national economy. Also manufactured here are bearings of great technical fineness used in nuclear and aerospace construction. The bearings carrying the trademark of the Alexandria enterprise are in high demand in tens of the world's countries (the USA, France, Spain, the GDR, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, etc.), as about 80 per cent of production is meant for export. (Photo below)





Crude is actually extracted from the Black Sea! To this already known brief piece of news we shall add the first conclusion of a specialist: "Through our present results and those we are about to obtain in the near future, the Gloria off-shore rig is one of the most productive Romanian extraction units."

But there are other advantages too: the quality of the crude pumped from the sea makes it suitable for the production of oils with special properties; from the same platform the technicians manage to drill numerous inclined and directed wells, which reduces their cost; its proximity to the coast, to the Mida-Navidari petrochemical works, also cuts transport expenses.



1 You are now on Gloria. Initially, it was a drilling platform. Only recently has it been redesigned for extraction. Oil is sent through the endowater pipe to the Buzeni ship, in anchor one mile away from the platform. Then, the oil is carried to the shore by an oil tanker called Buzeni.

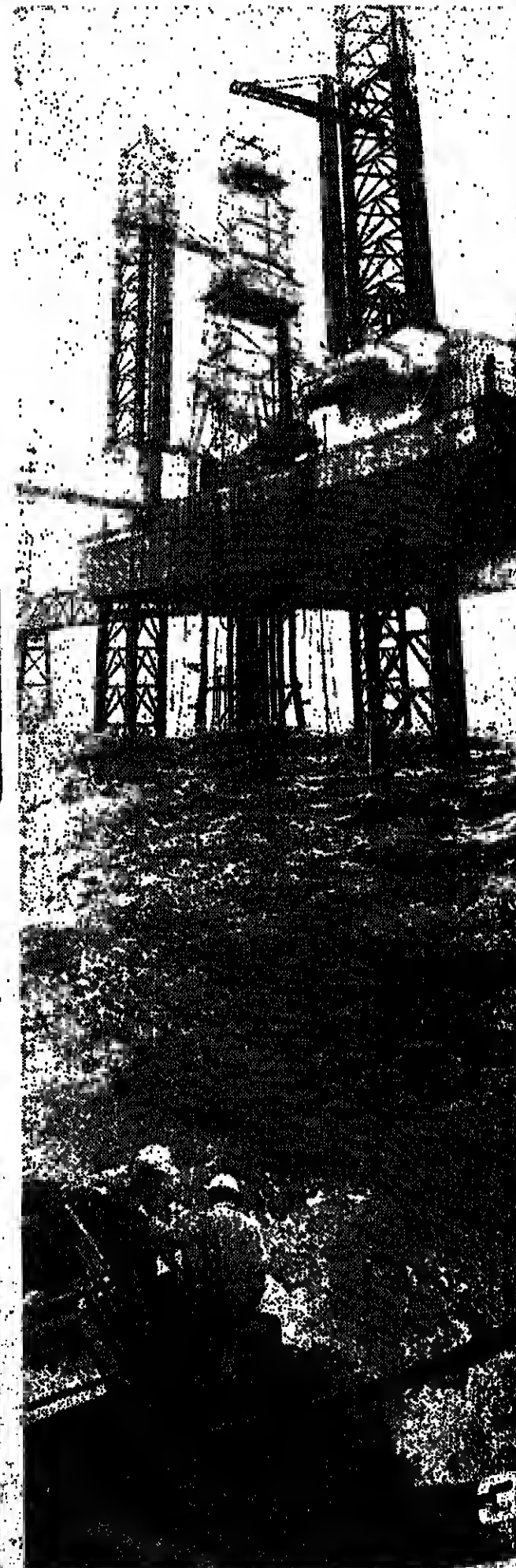
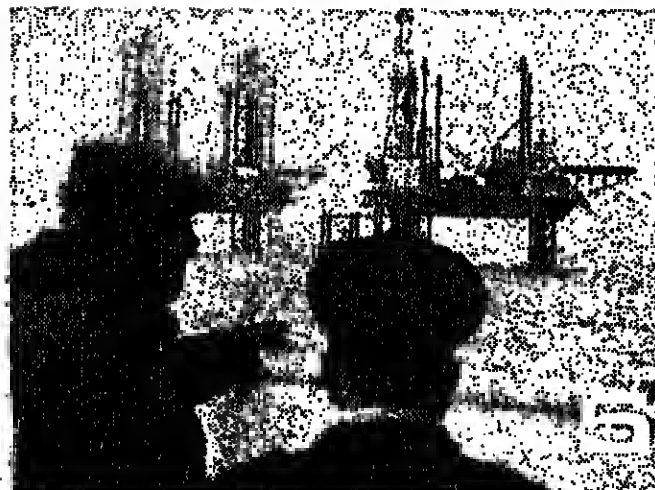
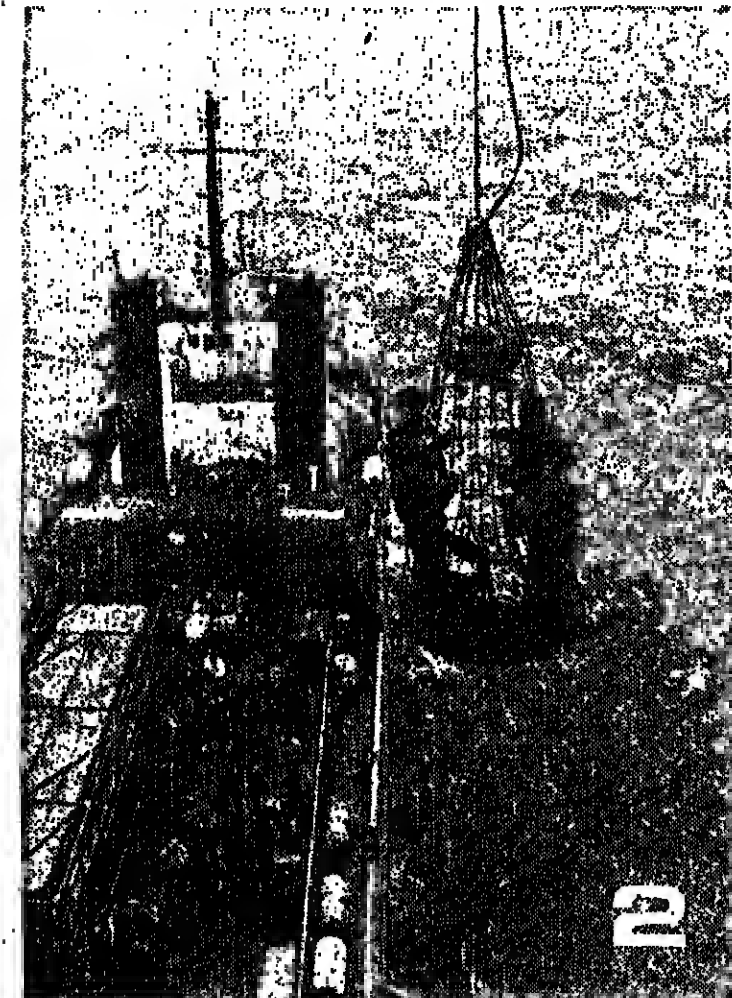
2 From the ship to the platform one can travel with an original gondola sustained by a crane with a cable.

3 Again the Gloria platform, front view. Let us unveil its "personal background". It is half as large as a football field, is more specific 40 X 40 m. Half of the area is covered by extraction equipment while the other half by sea water injection installations. Sea water is especially prepared to replace the quantity of oil that is currently extracted.

4 All operations are automated. Our hosts say that "We can see oil only if... we want to."

5 There are six platforms of this kind. Those in the photo are called Gloria (left) and Fortuna.

6 Life on the platform preserves the names of "land-based" occupations: extraction operator, injection operator, etc.



A LESSON ABOUT STORKS

Two years ago, at the International Stork Symposium at Vogelpark in Welsrode, West Germany, the drawings and paintings made by some children from Romania, more exactly from Scari village, Sibiu county created a true sensation. Their success was not due to their artistic qualities or to the uncommon talent of the school children in that village but to their subject: all of them more or less skillfully represented storks. Television stations in the host country, France, Japan and other countries, in their programmes, frequently focused on these works.

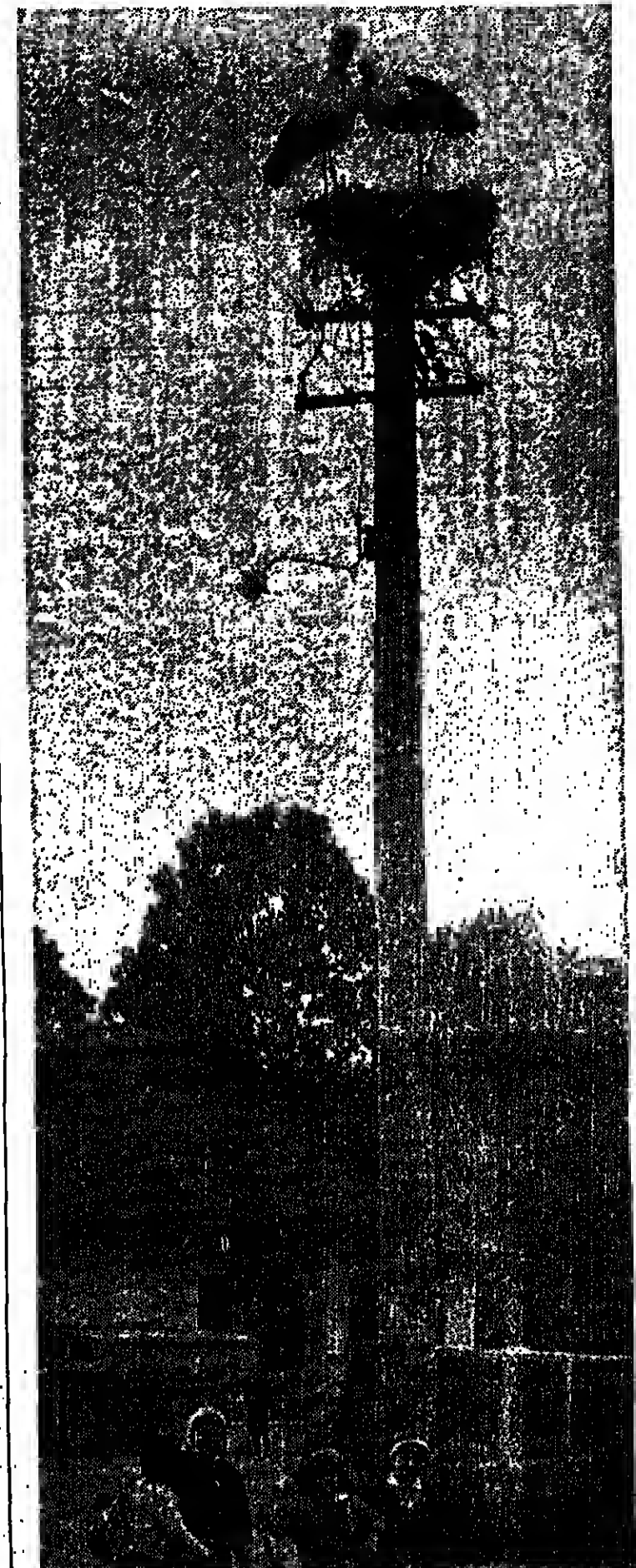


Equally great interest was aroused by professor Gavrilă Popa's paper on an apparently commonplace topic: Rhythmic Pops in Stork Protection Activities. The public heard a report on an experiment regarded as unique in the world. Here are some of the data it contained: Professor Popa found out after monographic researches that in the 19th century there used to live many white storks (Ciconia ciconia) in Scari village, which migrated from and returned to these places for dozens of years. But in the 1970s the number of stork nests started to decrease. The village residents wondered about the causes that made these magnificent birds shun the picturesque locality in Făgăraş Land. Professor Popa identified one of these causes. The new buildings erected in that settlement have flat roofs, as is only natural today. But the storks did not like these sloping, slippery and hard surfaces, different from the old hay roofs. That is why few white storks made their nests on the new roofs, which proved a very difficult operation. It was then that children of Scari came to their aid. The professor and his students made hundreds of twig which they fastened to overhanging eaves, storks' refuge as to ease the first flights of nestlings. The storks accepted the gift and built their cartwheel-like nests much more rapidly and easily. Since then storks have been coming to Scari in increasingly larger numbers, up to 54 couples (almost as much as in 1940). In autumn more than 130 storks are leaving the village. And even though their number is slightly decreasing — because of a continuously dry weather in the African areas where storks hibernates — Scari village can brag about more soups than ever had, such as the Notkerland (over 20). Denmark and France (some 20). A signal warning that the ecological equilibrium has been suffering. A sad privilege of our country — specialists claim — that registers the daily extinction of an animal species and the weekly disappearance of a vegetable one. At this rate the biogenic of a new millennium will be overshadowed by the irreparable loss of 30 per cent of the world species.

That is why, the white stork (Ciconia ciconia) made the object of the above-mentioned symposium, organized by the International Council for Bird Preservation. It was attended then by 51 ornithologists from almost all the European states, the African states, the Middle East, the USA, Japan, China and India. Analysed were data provided by the 1981 European census, as part of which Romania accounted for some 5,000 couples (incomplete levelled), with Poland comfortably in the lead with 10,000 couples. The participants in the symposium reached the conclusion that the alarming drop in the number of storks is partly due to the dangers to which birds are exposed along the two routes of migration towards Africa (one through Spain and the other through the Balkans), and the prolonged drought plaguing and partly due to the reduction or even disappearance of the biogenic characteristics of the species existing in European countries, by drainage works and excessive chemicalization of fields.

Professor Gavrilă Popa told us about all this in the yard of his household where we were watching a stork nest. The sun was hot but the stork endured the heat without moving. "The young storks came out of their eggs, are in the nest but we can't see them from down here. In order to protect them, the female stork shields them with her wings. She sits like this for days and days, turning around the sun like a sunflower. The male is looking for food in the meantime". There is also another thing worth mentioning. The protection of the white stork in Scari village, is a topic received with interest at the symposium held in West Germany and in other national or international events in which Gavrilă Popa participated or sent his scientific papers. Professor Popa is not a specialist in biology, natural sciences or geography. He is the author of a very interesting monograph — Scari — An Old Romanian Hearth in Făgăraş Land, which was awarded a prize at the fourth edition of the "Scari to Romania" national festival, carried out with the feeling that nature with its forests, mountains, creatures, is man's best friend.

M. CONSTANTINESCU
Photo by ELENA GHERA



A VILLAGE CHRONICLE

For Clementina Domide, a minor's wife of Rodna (Bistriţa-Năsăud county), each day carries its own meaning. Though there are many things to be done in a peasant farmstead, she says "there is plenty of time for everything, especially if you find enough time for entertainment". It was useless for me to ask her what she had in mind. The scores of paintings in her house, as well as the "stork" engravings speak themselves about her passion. Primitive paintings. Scenes from the life of a mountain village, whose beauty and purity evokes a charm which we call picturesque. Folklore festivals occasioned by specifically local pursuits (sheep and cattle breeding); the white spectrum of geometrical and floral motifs adorning the various woven items, from carpets to blankets and towels as well as the everyday and festive clothing; the main events in man's life: birth, the young people's coming of age marked by their first wedding with the village boys (round dances); the old people's council, the highest moral court of the village etc. — all these make up a true village chronicle, whose chapters are meant to tell the future generations about the most beautiful and the most difficult days of our ancestors. In vivid, harmonious colours, Clementina Domide's engravings serve as a pictorial chronicle of an invaluable treasure.

M. BONOUTRANU



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